Plunder raps filed vs Estrada, Mike Velarde

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2001 ★★★ 30 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 128 ₱15

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Wahid offers to host gov't-MILF talks

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE RECENT flurry of activities on two conflict-filled fronts inspire great hopes that peace is in the horizon.

On the Moro insurgency front, Indonesian President Abdurahman Wahid has formally offered to host peace talks between the Philippine

WAHID/ A12

Erap named brains in Dacer murders

Estrada posts bail for graft

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada yesterday surrendered to the Sandiganbayan to post bail of P140,000 for six of the seven criminal charges filed against him before the anti-graft court.

All but the plunder case are bailable.

Plunder, or large-scale corruption, is punishable by death.

Estrada was forced to post bail to avoid going to jail hours after the Sandiganbayan issued warrants of arrest against him.

The court division that issued the arrest warrants had determined that there was "probable cause" to put Estrada on trial for diverting P130 million in tobacco excise taxes in 1998 and for misrepresenting his assets in official documents.

But in a puzzling move, government prosecutors sent notice to the Sandiganbayan that they were withdrawing one of the graft cases against him purportedly so that they could concentrate on plunder.

Later, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he would withdraw five of the cases for the same reason.

An ex parte motion to withdraw information reached the Sandigan's 3rd Division at 4:30 p.m. yesterday to ask the pullout of Criminal Case No. 2653, which cited Estrada for violation of the Code of Conduct for government personnel.

About 10 minutes later, Estrada and party

ESTRADA/ A12

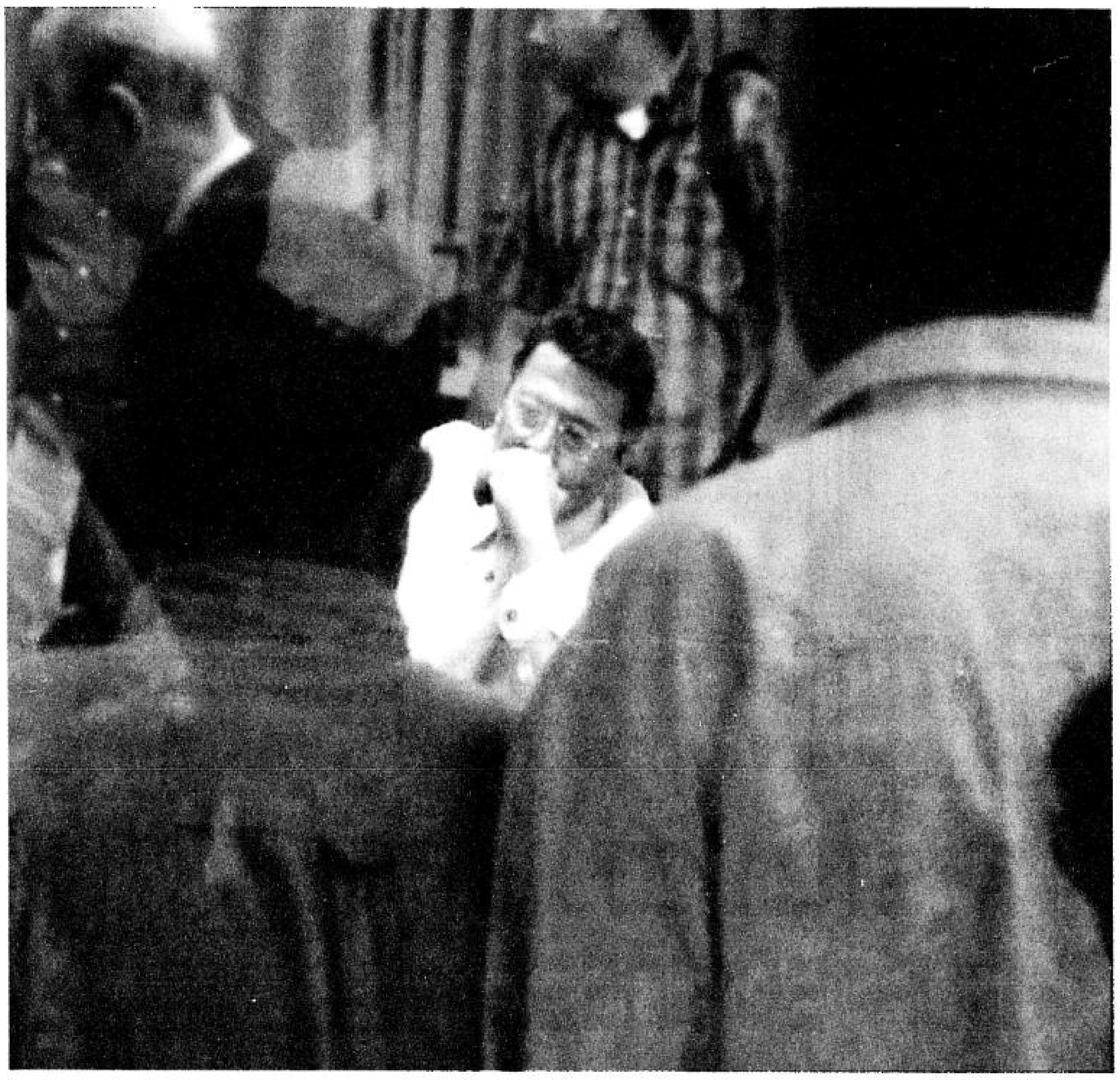
'They will have to kill us first . . .'

BY AGNES E. DONATO
AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

"THEY will have to kill us first before we will abandon our president," exclaimed Fernando Bonifacio, one of around 300 supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada who flocked to the gates of North Greenhills Subdivision in San Juan yesterday to "protect" their idol.

The demonstrators, many of whom were also Marcos loyalists, were not allowed to enter the subdivision where the Estradas' Polk Street home

THEY/ A12



A DOWNCAST Estrada, just like any criminal suspect, is fingerprinted at the Sandiganbayan as his relatives, lawyers and bodyguards form a protective circle around him as if to hide from public view the indignity of the moment.

VAL HANDUMON

Order to kill bypassed superior, say 4 cops

BY DAVE M. VERIDIANO
AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

JOSEPH Estrada allegedly gave the order to abduct and murder publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, according to four policemen who have confessed to taking part in the brutal killing.

The shocking claim surfaced during the interrogation of seven suspects who are all in the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), according to a source privy to the investigation.

During the interrogation, four of the suspects claimed that Estrada coursed the order through Chief Insp. Glenn Dumlao of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

They said their group usually received orders from Estrada through Senior Supt. Teofilio Viña, their immediate superior.

But in this case, the order was reportedly coursed through Dumlao who bypassed Viña and contacted the group that seized Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito on Nov. 24, the source quoted the suspects as saying.

Another senior intelligence officer confirmed that the suspects had implicated Estrada, but said they had done so verbally and not in a formal deposition.

Estrada has repeatedly and vehemently denied any involvement in the case.

Ironically, Viña—the former head of the PAOCTF Visayas who was initially being tagged as the brains behind the Dacer double murder case—turned over the seven suspects to Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, during the Lenten season, according to the source.

The source said that Viña and

ERAP/ A12

SSS admits ₱8-B loss under Estrada watch

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO,
RAUL C. DANCEL AND
ARMAND NOCUM

THE SOCIAL Security System (SSS) yesterday admitted that it incurred heavy losses from bad investments during the Estrada administration, prompting it to consider raising this year the monthly dues paid by its 23 million members.

The net income of the SSS plunged to negative P3 billion last year (not "less than P3 billion" as mistakenly stated in yesterday's story).

SSS chair and president Vitaliano Nañagas II said the pension fund would be enough to cover the benefits of members for only seven to 14 years had former SSS chief Carlos "Chuckie" Arellano continued with his handling of the pension fund.

"That number could be true or would have been worse had SSS continued with the line of action that it took during the time of (ousted President Joseph) Estrada and Arellano. But this is a new government and we promise that things will change," Nañagas said.

The biggest change involves raising the monthly contributions of the SSS members.

Nañagas promised to proceed with the increase in membership contributions gradually.

He said doubling a member's contribution from the current 8.4 percent of monthly salary would add some 20 years to the funds' available resources.

But he said the SSS would extend the funds' lifeblood by five years within the year by slightly raising the monthly dues from members and by improving the collection of dues.

Nañagas said the pension fund would only engage in blue chip investments to cut losses and improve earnings.

The SSS chief noted that the pension fund lost some P8 billion from

SSS/ A4

THE GODMOTHER

JOAN BONDOC

President Macapagal has agreed to stand as principal sponsor at the Baguio City wedding in May of actors Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales, who are shown here inviting the President.

Plunder raps filed vs Erap, Bro. Mike for 'overpriced' lot

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada and his spiritual adviser, Mariano "Brother Mike" Velarde, were yesterday charged with plunder and graft for allegedly conniving to sell land to the government at an "outrageously overpriced" sum two years ago.

Velarde allegedly sold a total of 79,638 square meters to the government with a declared market value of P52,195,640 for P1,222,841,490.

The case, the 11th criminal charge to be brought against the ousted President before the Office of the Ombudsman, involves the irregular purchase of private lands for the construction of the 7.5-km road network called the C-5 Link Expressway, to connect the C-5 highway to the South Luzon Expressway.

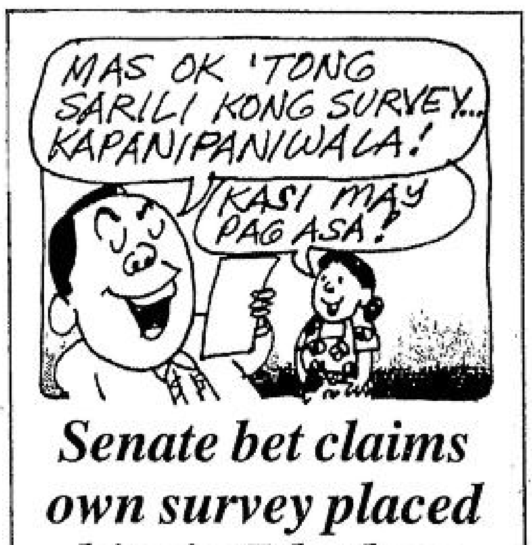
The irregular land deal was first exposed in an INQUIRER special report in August 2000.

The case was filed by Ernesto B. Francisco, a lawyer formerly connected with the Accra law office of Estrada's executive secretary, Edgardo Angara.

Also named in the 67-page complaint were Velarde's son, Franklin, former Estrada Cabinet secretaries Ronaldo Zamora and Gregorio Vigilar and 14 others.

The accused were charged with

PLUNDER/ A4


MAS OK 'TONG SARILI KONG SURVEY... KAPANIPANIWALA!
KASI MAY PAG-ASA!

Senate bet claims own survey placed him in 7th place

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

AN OPPOSITION senatorial candidate who has been trailing in the surveys of national polling firms claimed his own survey showed he was in seventh place.

Ombra Tamano, one of three candidates from Mindanao in the Laban ng

SENATE/ A12

Second FRONT PAGE

UBUSIN ANG MGA BANDIDONG YAN !

Mayoralty bet shot dead

LEGAZPI CITY—Suspected communist rebels shot dead a Lakas-NUCD candidate for mayor in Sta. Magdalena, Sorsogon, while he was delivering a campaign speech on Sunday night, police said.

Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, Bicol police chief, identified the victim as Felix Frayna, 55, the first election casualty in Bicol.

Frayna was speaking on a makeshift platform in Barangay San Eugenio in Sta. Magdalena when he was shot by two suspected New People's Army rebels armed with a .45 caliber pistols. He died instantly.

His campaign manager Ulysses Frelles, 35, and supporter Renato Estrellada, 40, were wounded and are still in critical condition.

Frayna, a former Philippine Constabulary officer, was a three-term mayor of Sta. Magdalena from 1989 to 1998.

He was taking another stab at his old job and was running against incumbent mayor Nida Gamos of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Nationalist People's Coalition headed by Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee.

On April 8, a Frayna supporter was killed by unidentified men armed with M16 Armalite rifles.

A source said a possible reason for the attack on Frayna may have been his refusal to secure a permit to campaign in areas controlled by the rebels.

Earlier, the mayor of Bacon town, Leovic Dioneda, survived an ambush, also believed to have been perpetrated by NPA rebels.*Roly Embile and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Go get 'em'

Schilling asks rescuers to crush Abu Sayyaf captors

By Carlito Pablo

FREED American hostage Jeffrey Schilling left for home late Sunday, urging the military to crush his Abu Sayyaf captors, whom he described as "bandits" engaged in the "violation of Islam."

Schilling, a Muslim convert, made the appeal in a handwritten letter to Col. Renato Miranda, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade which rescued him in Luuk on April 12, a Maundy Thursday.

"The Marines, the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and the Republic of the Philippines must continue the operation against these bandits who call themselves Al Harakatul Islamiya," Schilling said in the letter.

Referring to the Abu Sayyaf, he added: "I am glad to know that it is only a small minority of people, who have nothing to do with Islam, who are engaged in these mindless acts of violence."

The 25-year-old American also thanked his Marine rescuers, and invited them to visit him at his home in Oakland, California.

"You and your men have made me feel as if I am an honorary Marine," Schilling said. "If you ever have the opportunity to come to the USA, come visit me and my family."

Schilling said that was "a general invitation to all the Marines of the 2nd Brigade."

"I hope you and your men are not too tired from the operation in Jolo and Cotabato," he added.

Departure

Schilling casually walked into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport with American security escorts and boarded a flight to Guam on Sunday night.

Looking relaxed, he ignored reporters' questions before passing through security, where he turned back and gave a brief statement thanking President Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes for working to liberate him from the Abu Sayyaf.

"I'd like them to continue the efforts against the Abu Sayyaf," Schilling said. "There are groups which can and will be destroyed as long as the operations continue."

In a statement yesterday, the US Embassy reiterated its gratitude to Ms Macapagal, her government and the Armed Forces for the outcome of the eight-month long kidnapping case.

Debriefed

"We are pleased that the Philippine government refused to give in to terrorist demands," the statement read.

Schilling, who was debriefed by local and US authorities over the weekend, left without his Filipina wife, Ivy Osani, who said Sunday that her husband was preparing her travel papers to the United States.

The university-educated Schilling came to the Philippines last year in search of a Muslim wife and found Osani, a cousin of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya.

He went voluntarily to Sabaya's camp in Sulu in August last year, and was taken hostage.

According to other accounts, however, Schilling had agreed to help the group purchase firearms and other military gear. Schilling denied this.

With a report from AP

Big families into drugs, says bishop

By N. Bordadora

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines has declared war against prominent and influential persons and families involved in the multibillion-peso illegal drug trade in the country.

"Many powerful clans and individuals have been linked to the local illegal drug trade but up to now no cases have been filed against any of them," according to Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president.

Quevedo did not name names but the CBCP move came a few weeks after some priests, notably University of the Philippines parish priest Fr. Robert Reyes, helped expose the alleged involvement of Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan in the trafficking of illegal drugs.

Reyes has reportedly been receiving threats because of his campaign against drugs and other social ills.

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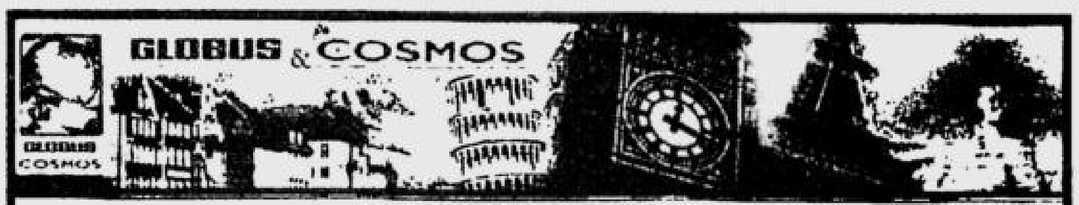

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Villadolid dies at 73

DR. Leland S. Villadolid, a noted endocrinologist and brother of Ambassador Oscar Villadolid, died on April 11 at the Makati Medical Center and will be cremated tomorrow. He was 73.

He is survived by his wife Ming; children Connie and Mulo, Vicky and Don, Leland Jr. and Marivic, Paul, Katrina and Ito; grandchildren Bianca, Jason, Javi, Nico, and Pocholo; siblings and in laws Lydia and Felix, Oscar and Alice, Doy and Naty, Purita and Pelayo (+) and Norma and Celso.

In 1983, Dr. Villadolid was a national awardee of the Zara Award in Applied Science from the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science.

Chavez takes oath as Marcos money hunter

FORMER Solicitor General Frank Chavez yesterday took his oath as liaison officer and special counsel of the government in the efforts to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses.

Chavez is supposed to help the Department of Justice, the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Office of the Solicitor General in locating and recovering the Marcos wealth.

Chavez will work on a pro bono basis and will be under the direct supervision and control of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. He is supposed to consult Perez on all questions before taking any specific action on any matter. His appointment is valid for one year and is subject to review from time to time.

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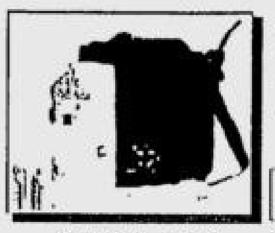

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SSS admits ₱8-B loss

(From page A1)

its P50-billion investment in publicly listed stocks last year.

He attributed the losses to the weakness of the stock market and to what he referred to as "judgment calls" that were proven to be unsound.

The losses were partly due to the bad investments in corporations owned by cronies or friends of cronies of Estrada.

Arellano as well as former Government Service Insurance System president Federico Pascual have testified that Estrada and his cronies had used the pension funds to invest in speculative and risky ventures.

Currently, the SSS has more than P181 billion in assets, including P27 billion in cash and government securities. Its reserve fund stood at P165 billion by the end of last year.

In an affidavit submitted to the Department of Justice, Willie Ocier, a second cousin of Estrada crony Jaime Dichaves, said the GSIS was made to buy some P1.102 billion worth of shares of Belle Corp., formerly controlled by Dichaves.

Ocier, Belle Corp. vice chair, said he was told that Estrada had ordered Pascual to make the purchase of shares.

Estrada reportedly owned a huge block of shares that the GSIS and the SSS bought at prices that allowed the former President to chalk up millions.

It was not reported how much Estrada made when GSIS bought Belle shares.

A person familiar with the situation said, however, that the SSS bought 250 million shares held by Estrada at P3.14 each, or P784 million for the lot. When these shares were given to Estrada, they reportedly cost only P2 each.

Senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo urged the government to recover SSS and GSIS funds invested in crony companies of the ousted President.

Arroyo also urged the government to run after the cronies and even Estrada himself by filing a new case of plunder against the former leader.

Arroyo noted that during the impeachment trial of Estrada the House prosecution panel had gotten wind of the use of the pension funds but did not have enough time to pursue it.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called for an investigation of reports that Estrada was involved in the misuse of GSIS and SSS funds.

Pimentel said it was "not enough" that some people say that Estrada was involved in the misuse of the funds.

"What is important is that actual proof is presented so that the people, the Office of the Ombudsman and law enforcement agencies will be guided accordingly," he said.

Malacañang assured the public that the Macapagal administration would go after people responsible for the huge losses of the SSS and GSIS during the Estrada administration.

"A lot of people will have to answer for these bad investments because the shares they bought have dropped in value," presidential spokesperson Renato Corona said in a press briefing.

"Somebody's got to pay for this mess, anybody who's responsible for this anomaly should answer for it," he said.

But Corona said the Palace would not take a direct hand in taking legal action against Estrada and his cronies because a complaint had been filed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

What the government can do is to find ways to help the SSS and GSIS recover their losses so they can live up to their mandate of helping member-beneficiaries, Corona said.

He said Congress could pass an appropriations law to help the SSS and GSIS get back on their feet. But he ruled out the possibility of an outright "bailout" due to the government's huge budget deficit.

Corona said those who managed the two pension fund agencies seriously violated the "prudent man rule."

"When you make a bad investment against all forms of good judgment, careful understanding, investigation and good foresight, you can be liable for violating the prudent man rule," he said.

As part of the reforms, the SSS will avoid granting across-the-board increases, according to Nañagas.

The SSS granted six across-the-board increases over the past 10 years without raising a member's monthly contribution.

Nañagas disclosed that in June the SSS will hold a covenant of service with its employees and members.

He said the covenant would improve the turnaround time for those availing themselves of a loan to one week, and only three days for funeral benefits.

For its part, the GSIS said it had enough funds to cover claims until 2036.

GSIS executive vice president Reynaldo Palmiery said a World Bank study described as "very healthy" GSIS' cash flow.

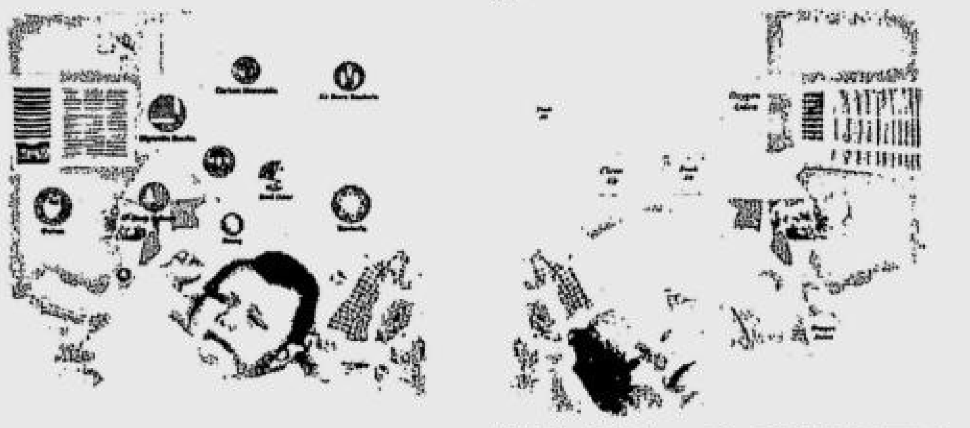
"Actuarial projections show that our cash flow will remain healthy until 2036," Palmiery told the INQUIRER. "Pensioners need not worry."

In Davao City, the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) urged the Department of Justice to immediately file criminal cases against Arellano and Pascual and jail them along with Estrada.

"What Estrada, his cronies and the former heads of the SSS and GSIS did is a very high crime. It's unforgivable. Just imagine what will happen to the millions of retirees if SSS will not be able to pay their pensions within the next seven to 14 years," said Felix Irag, KMU-Southern Mindanao secretary general.

Irag described the SSS and GSIS funds as the "sweat and blood" of the workers.

He said it was wrong to call the SSS and GSIS transaction with Estrada and his cronies investments "because these are pure and simple acts of thievery." *With reports from Christine Avendaño and Juliet Javellana in Manila and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Plunder raps filed vs Erap, Bro. Mike for 'overpriced' lot

(From page A1)

conspiring to defraud the government of more than P800 million for the right-of-way acquisitions (Rowa) for the Manila Cavite Toll Expressway Project (MCTE).

Francisco said the money was released to Velarde in just two and a half days after Estrada ordered the immediate approval of the purchase of the Velarde-owned property by the Toll Regulatory Board.

Francisco said there was reason to believe that Velarde might have taken advantage of his closeness to Estrada, whose presidential candidacy he helped advance with his six-million-strong El Shaddai charismatic sect in 1998, to promote the land deal.

The complaint established that the government had allotted P7.73 billion for the construction of the toll expressway, which involved the improvement of the existing 6.6-km Coastal Road and the construction of the 7.5-km C-5 expressway that would link it to Parañaque.

The project also involved extending the Coastal Road by 11.4 km, from Bacoor to Noveleta, Cavite.

Francisco alleged that on March 30, 1999, Holy Tuesday, the Velarde-owned Amvel Land Development Corp. entered into four deeds of sale with the government involving nine parcels of land situated in Barangays Palasan and Calang-calangan, San Dionisio, Parañaque City.

The total land area involved was 79,638 sq. m., priced at P15,355 per sq. m. for a total purchase price of P1,222,841,490.

According to Securities and Exchange Commission documents, Amvel—standing for the initials of spouses Mariano and Avelina Velarde—had an authorized capital stock of P100 million as of June 27, 1997 but recorded a total indebtedness of more than P477 million as of Feb. 17 that same year.

Estrada allegedly directed the Toll Regulatory Board to approve the sale of the pieces of Velarde property to the government, stressing that the agency submit "a certification, stating that the said contracts are aboveboard, that due diligence has been complied with, that these contracts are free from all defects and that the terms of the contract are the most advantageous to the government."

The TRB certificate was issued on April 5, 1999, Easter Sunday. That same day, the Public Estates Authority released P611,420,745, representing 50 percent of the total purchase price of the Velarde property.

The release of the balance was made conditional on the transfer of the titles of the pieces of property in the name of the government and the submission of the required tax receipts and clearances.

"All of (these) took place in just two and a half working days, considering that March 31, 1999, Holy Wednesday, was a half working day while what followed was a long holiday commencing on Maundy Thursday and ending on Easter Sunday," according to the complaint.

Francisco said the PEA paid Amvel in full in less than a month. Whether the conditions were met for the release of the balance was not clear.

The lawyer charged that the parcels of land "were outrageously overpriced."

Francisco had studied the selling prices quoted by Velarde, their assessed values and the declared market values using the transfer certificates of title of the pieces of property and their corresponding areas.

Francisco said Amvel sold parcels of undeveloped agricultural lands but made it appear that they were "residential" to jack up the purchase price.

He said the rates quoted by Velarde were "more than 2,300 percent of their total declared market value and 11,700 percent of their total assessed value."

For example, a parcel of land measuring 2,153 sq. m. had a declared market value of P1.5 million but Velarde sold it for more than P33 million.

Another parcel measuring 9,427 sq. m. with a declared market value of P6.598 million was sold to the government for P144 million.

Worse, Velarde reportedly first demanded that he be paid P25,000 per sq. m.—later reduced to P20,000 per sq. m.—for the parcels of land, Francisco said.

Assuming that the declared market value of the pieces of property is really much lower than their actual market value or the zonal value, they were still outrageously overpriced, the lawyer said.

Francisco also noted that on Feb. 17, 1999, or two months before the deeds were signed, the Office of the President confirmed that the purchase price for right-of-way acquisition should be the equivalent of the zonal value, plus a certain percentage of that.

Estrada issued Administrative Order 50 directing all government agencies engaged in infrastructure projects to "first negotiate with the owner for the acquisition of private lands intended for public use by offering a purchase price in the amount equivalent to 10 percent higher than the zonal value of the property."

Francisco argued that if the TRB adhered strictly to the administrative order's guidelines, the entire land purchase should have cost the government P394,208,100 only.

"By not following the guidelines set by AO 50, the government was defrauded of the staggering amount of P828,633,390," he charged.

Also named in the complaint were TRB executive* director Mariano Benedicto II; former TRB officer in charge Ramon V. Dumaual; TRB ROW coordinator Ruben de Ocampo; former PEA chair Frisco San Juan; former PEA chair and general manager Arsenio B. Yulo; former Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Roberto Nacianceno; Patrick Gatan, Luis Medina-Cue, Soledad S. Medina-Cue, Rey Divino Daval-Santos and Silvestre de Leon of the Parañaque City appraisal committee; Luis J.L. Virata, Manuel Zamora Jr., Cesar Virata and a host of John and Jane Does.

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Meralco lying to consumers, Enrile asserts

MERALCO is deceiving its consumers by "deliberately twisting" a World Bank formula in the computation of its return on base rate (RORB) profits to justify its application for a 30-centavo increase in electric rates.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile made this claim yesterday, saying Meralco had been claiming that its RORB was only 5.5 percent and that they are in default with their major lender, the World Bank.

However, Enrile cited a report of the Office of the Solicitor General which revealed that Meralco's actual RORB was actually 10.85 percent in 1999 using the World Bank formula, which is contained in Meralco loan agreement with the WB.

"They deliberately lied," Enrile said. "Meralco is making more profits, contrary to its published claims and it is not in any way in technical default with the World Bank because of the low RORB," Enrile said.

The RORB, which is the government-restricted profit based on the total assets that Meralco uses in power distribution, determines the electric rate to be charged to consumers.

Enrile said the public should know that a 10.88 percent RORB is actually about 32 percent return on the investors' equity, which is only one-third of its capital requirement.

The balance of two-thirds is financed by loans from banks and international lending institutions like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

The senator warned that if Meralco is granted the 30-centavo increase per kilowatt hour, its profits will soar to at least 40 percent.

'NO VACANCY' IN THE BOARD

SMC fights to keep 5 directors

LAWYERS for San Miguel Corp. asked the Supreme Court yesterday to dismiss the administration's petition seeking to replace the five government nominees on the board of the food and beverage conglomerate.

In a 47-page comment, SMC counsel Estelito Mendoza maintained that the five directors who represent the government's interest on the board were elected by SMC's shareholders at their last meeting in April 2000, and they were voted in for a term of one year or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

The administration's petition was filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government on April 2, 2001. SMC's next stockholders meeting is scheduled for next month.

The petition claimed the present government nominees on the SMC board—Benjamin Paulino, Hermogenes Tantoco, Allan Lee, Raul de Guzman and Esperidion Laxa—had no right to sit on the board and the Macapagal administration wanted to replace them with its own nominees.

"Like all other incumbent members of the SMC board, the five were elected by the stockholders at the annual meeting last year. No position on the SMC board is reserved for PCGG nominees and voted upon separately," according to Mendoza, who is better known as the lead lawyer of deposed President Joseph Estrada at the latter's Senate impeachment trial.

"No person has become a member of the SMC board by appointment of the President of the Philippines or the PCGG, including those who are labeled as PCGG nominees," Mendoza added.

Mendoza said that San Miguel being a private corporation, its directors hold office until their successors are elected in accordance with the Corporation Code.

"The five directors cannot be forced to resign, hence there is no vacancy to which new PCGG directors could be elected," he said.

The PCGG had claimed that nominees to the SMC board were but "agents" of the PCGG and the President of the Philippines.

New management will be installed at SMC if the government takes control of the board at the next shareholders meeting, PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento said yesterday.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to replace the current directors with her own supporters, including former San Miguel vice chair Renato Valencia. *With AFP*

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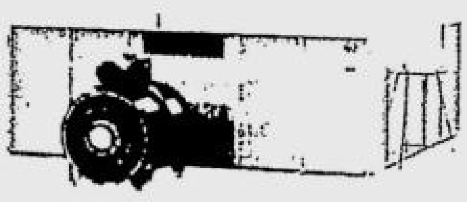

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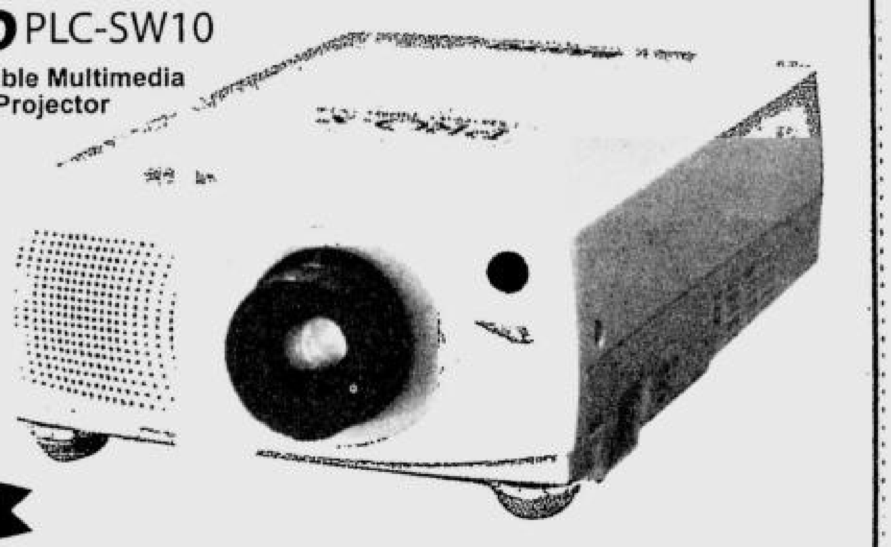

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Erap's arrest

EDITORIAL

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday ordered the arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada for graft and corruption and perjury. As this was being written Estrada was expected to show up in court to post bail and avoid arrest. About 300 of his supporters were holding vigil at his house at North Greenhills, but there has been no violent reaction to the arrest order so far.

What is expected to raise problems is a forthcoming Sandiganbayan order for Estrada's arrest and detention on a charge of plunder. Plunder is a capital offense and Estrada cannot post bail to obtain temporary liberty. Opposition leaders and candidates have said that if he were arrested and detained, revolution or civil war would break out or rioting would take place in the streets. They also said Estrada's arrest would result in an overwhelming opposition victory in the senatorial election next month.

Why should there be a revolution or a civil war or rioting in the streets to protest the lawful arrest of a former leader who is facing serious criminal charges, including the capital offense of plunder? Do the opposition leaders think so low of the masses that they believe they will take up arms to support someone who may be proven to be a grafter, thief and plunderer?

So far, the Filipino people have risen up in violent revolutions and peaceful revolts in support of big causes like freedom from foreign oppression or liberation from repressive and corrupt dictators and presidents. Yet now the opposition would have us believe that the masses will rise up to protest the arrest of a deposed president against whom an overwhelming amount of evidence of graft and plunder was presented during the Senate impeachment trial.

Some administration officials may fear the prediction of the opposition that Estrada's arrest will lessen the chances of winning of the People Power Coalition candidates. The administration officials should entertain no such fear. If ever, the impact of Estrada's arrest will be on the opposition ticket, not on the administration slate.

It would be a different thing if trumped-up charges were being brought against Estrada. Then the people would have a basis to say that he is being persecuted and they would have a reason to stage nationwide protests. But nothing of the sort is being done against him. The charges are backed by evidence. The former president will be accorded due process and all his rights as an accused will be protected.

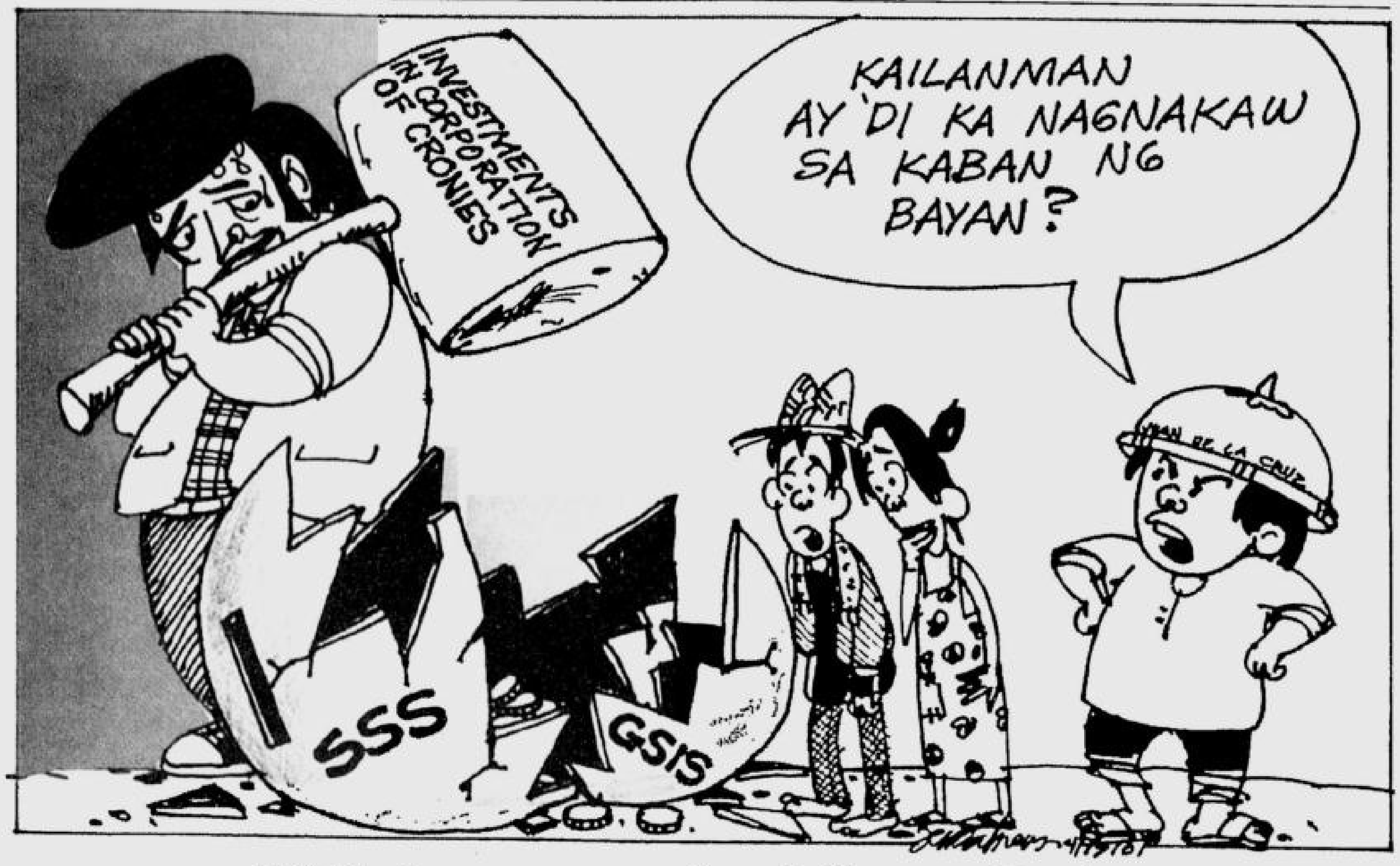
Now, for the first time in the country's history, a former president will be arrested and brought to trial. Now, something is being done by the judicial system to mete out justice to a leader accused of dipping his fingers into the national treasury. And yet the opposition would have us believe that the very same people—the victims of some leader's graft and plunder—would protest the dispensation of justice in this case.

Let the opposition leaders and candidates air all their dire warnings. The government should not be deterred by the dark scenarios being painted by these people to prevent the arrest and detention of the biggest fish ever to be netted by the country's judicial system. The Macapagal administration, in enforcing the law, should be prepared to face the risks that the opposition is warning of. It should not be cowed by threats that have no legal basis

But the Macapagal administration has to be prepared for trouble. Already, there are reports that Estrada plans to use the Kuratong Baleleng Group, a notorious kidnap-for-ransom and robbery gang, and paramilitary forces to resist arrest. The police will have to be prepared for this possibility.

The administration also has to take measures to ensure that the very same money that Estrada is alleged to have stolen will not be used to stir up trouble. Money was used in People Power II to produce instant pro-Estrada demonstrations. Money can buy peaceful demonstrators; it can also buy goons and hooligans who can undertake violent actions under the direction of pro-Estrada city and town officials.

South Korea was able to arrest, detain, try and imprison Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan, two former presidents, for mutiny, treason and corruption. Former Chilean strongman Augusto Pinochet is under house arrest on homicide and kidnapping charges. Former President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia was arrested recently to face corruption charges. Other countries have been able to arrest, detain and prosecute former leaders for grave crimes. We can do no less in the Philippines. The law should be allowed to take its course. Let the government arrest and detain Estrada, and let his trial begin.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TV takeover can backfire on Putin

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dmitry Zaks

MOSCOW—The takeover of Russia's independent NTV television threatened to backfire on President Vladimir Putin when the ousted staff set out to launch a new station with nothing to lose from speaking out.

Never since NTV stubbornly emerged in 1994 as the first non-state broadcaster has the Russian government held sway over every TV broadcaster that goes on air nationally.

NTV journalists fought determinedly but in vain to stop state-run gas giant Gazprom from seizing control of the station this month because of unpaid debts, arguing the takeover was a political ploy to silence Putin's critics. The defiant reporters beat a tactical retreat Saturday, crossing the streets to a tiny studio which will broadcast the old NTV news on a new cable station called TNT that almost nobody in Russia can see. But the reporters are also planning to move on to bigger things—at the Moscow broadcaster TV-6, run by tycoon Boris Berezovsky who like NTV founder Vladimir Gusinsky became wealthy in the reckless early days of economic reform and is also hiding abroad from prosecution.

"Now we are going to broadcast programs on TNT. We are going to set up a new television channel," anchor Mariana Maksimovskaya declared while waving her resignation letter.

Observers agree that the state's point of view will, for now, blanket the three national networks. They are less sure whether this is what Putin actually wanted.

Some insiders suggest Gazprom has handed Putin a poisoned chalice, showing off its muscle over Russian politics and economics by swallowing NTV and leaving the president with a severe freedom-of-speech headache.

> The predominant view says that it is the Kremlin which orchestrated the NTV takeover in revenge for the station's open coverage of the Chechen war

"People over-estimate the amount of control the Kremlin really has over Gazprom," said dissident Gazprom board member Boris Fyodorov. "It is not as simple as it looks."

But the predominant view says that it is the Kremlin which orchestrated the NTV takeover in revenge for the station's open coverage of the Chechen war at times when the state tried to filter all information coming out of the ruined republic. NTV also opposed Putin's 2000 presidential run. Some Western diplomats say in private that this is a misjudgment the new Kremlin chief was never willing to forgive.

In either case, NTV's former reporters appear determined to go on the attack again. An uphill battle, they are still boosted by the idea that the news operation is no longer in debt to the state and will now be financed without state handouts.

"For the first time, Putin has managed to rip apart Russia's secret political contract" stating that the opposition can speak as long it remains under Kremlin control, said one commentator for Moscow's TVTs television.

Other analysts agreed that Putin's first task—whether he wants it or not—will be to manage the fallout from NTV's bitter breakup by making sure that NTV's old staff does not do too much political damage on another station.

"They will try to use all means possible to make sure that NTV is not cloned on other channels," said Andrei Piontkovsky of Moscow's Center for Strategic Studies. "Of course this will be tough to do. They (the state) will seek new excuses, but the powers that be will not stop—they will make sure that they fully finish off the media rebellion."

Others said that the very fact that NTV journalists were willing to appear on a station run by the controversial tycoon Berezovsky would discredit them in public enough, without any other Kremlin interference.

"You cannot bar (former NTV chief Yevgeny) Kiselyov from working on television. The task is not to eliminate Kiselyov—which is impossible—but to give him a niche which discredits him," said Sergei Markov, a Moscow State University political science professor.

Others simply said that the journalists who worked for NTV's former owner Vladimir Gusinsky and Berezovsky have forged an unholy alliance that is waiting to come unstuck. "Berezovksy and Gusinsky cannot manage on their own, without Kremlin help," said Andranik Migranyan, a former president Boris Yeltsin aide who works with Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov.

AFP

Left out

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER talking to some *kasamas* in 1989, shortly after the fall of the Wall in Berlin. Everywhere, the fall of the Wall had taken on the aspect of D-Day, the end of World War II, which it was in fact for many, signaling as it did the end of an even longer and more bitter war. A year later the Soviet Union would split up, etching the death of socialism in tablet. Observers were beside themselves looking for ways to describe the event. It was as if, one said, the tectonic plates of history had moved, sending powerful aftershocks rippling throughout the world.

I asked the *kasamas* how they thought the event would affect them. They replied that it wouldn't. This was so for two reasons, they said:

One was that the local revolutionary movement was never dependent on outside help. It had thrived and grown without help from either the Soviet bloc or the Chinese. Its arms it got from raids and ambushes, its finances it got from production, donation and taxes. So it was before the fall of the Wall, so it would be after.

Two was that the local revolutionary movement never looked for guidance from outside. Though it hewed closer to the Chinese bloc than to the Soviet, it never took orders from the Chinese politburo. It did so from Utrecht, which was "from outside" only in the geographical sense.

I was skeptical of the answers and pressed on, asking them if they didn't think the ideological rug had been pulled out from under them, if they didn't think what had tumbled down in Berlin wasn't just metal and concrete but the wall of Marxism itself. Not at all, they said. All the event proved was that there was a gap between the theory of Marxism and the practice of Marxism. "Historical socialism" (as against "essential socialism") had been imperfect, little living up to the true vision of Marx. That was what had caused the Soviet experiment, which included adventurist, if not fascist, domination of Eastern European countries, to fail.

A decade later, it was all Marxist revolutionary movements around the world could do to survive. Most had shrunk in size and strength—compared to their heyday in the 1970s and 1980s, thanks in no small way to American support for Third World despots—and pretty much become marginalized groups where they were. The one country where news of socialism's death remained grossly exaggerated, China, soon made world headlines by trampling down protesting youth with tanks at Tienanmen Square, a spot of earth that until then was known only as the gateway to the Imperial Palace. How well China lived up to the true vision of Marx, sending as it did loud echoes of an ancient absolutist past, was a question that came back to haunt.

More than this, the power of Marxism to draw in recruits to the fold, notably the youth, the one single group that harks to the spirit of idealism and self-sacrifice like birds to the sun—or moth to a flame—had waned dramatically. It still brought converts from the universities, but no longer the flood that tumbled to the countryside from the cities in previous decades. From the "prairie fire" (as the *kasamas* themselves called it) that swept through the campuses of the country in the 1970s and 1980s, "national democracy," the main local articulation of the Marxist cause, sputtered and turned into smoldering ash in the corners of academe by the turn of the millennium.

All these will—or should—come to play in the imminent peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF). The development has already brought several NDF officials back to this country after years of exile. They include Tony Zumel, who sat on a wheelchair at the airport (I saw his picture in the INQUIRER) much weakened from battling disease. Somehow, I will always think of him not as the leading NDF negotiator but as the man who swam in the Pasig River on a cold rainy night in a race with several inebriated friends on a dare when he was still an officer of the National Press Club. That was well before martial law and well before he became a revolutionary. That was probably even before Mao swam in the Yangtze River.

I admire the man. But cancer isn't all that Zumel will have to battle with in the next few months. Indeed, the government negotiators are not all Zumel will have to battle with in the next few months. The pall of the socialist vision is so, and should prove harder to cross than the Pasig River on a cold rainy night. "History is on our side," the *kasamas* have always said. That is so no longer, if at all it was thus. The history of the last decade at least has shown that history is very much against their side.

I have no doubt that much of what the NDF says is wrong with the country remains valid, even if others will dispute its formulation as the "three mountains" of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. I have no doubt that much of what the NDF says about the depths of poverty, exploitation and oppression of the Filipino masses remains resonant, even if others will dispute its explanation of their origins. But I have every doubt that its proffered solution of a communist alternative remains acceptable, even if others will agree that some kind of armed resistance is needed to stop oppression in the countryside.

The NDF will have to come to terms with this in the peace talks. The group has always said that for peace talks between itself and government to become successful, they must go beyond forging a truce to eliminating the root causes of insurgency. They must go beyond questions of how to questions of why. They must go beyond looking for temporary and piecemeal solutions to war to permanent and comprehensive solutions to it. That was what it said during the 1986 peace talks, that is what it is saying now.

That is a piece of advice the NDF itself would do well to heed. The peace talks may not just compel the government to perform an examination of society, they must compel the revolutionary movement to perform an examination of conscience. They may not just compel the government to acknowledge its contribution to fanning revolution, they must compel the revolutionary movement to acknowledge its contribution to stifling dissent. They may not just compel the government to realize how it is missing the point in the war against poverty and want, they must compel the revolutionary movement to see why it is missing the point in the war for hearts and minds.

The debacle, or demise, of the socialism is the first thing the NDF must wrestle with in the peace talks. There is a second.

(*To be concluded*)

Lacson should explain his men's role in Dacer murder

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) was finally laid to rest yesterday, after it had been hounded by controversies since deposed President Estrada created it. The PAOCTF has been linked to various crimes, among them kidnap-for-ransom cases, drug trafficking and wire-tapping, until its very name came to symbolize exactly the opposite of what it was supposed to do, which was to fight crimes. The crime that drove the last nail on its coffin was the murder of PR man Bubby Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito. Witnesses have identified some members of the PAOCTF as among those involved in this dastardly crime.

* * *

The crimes that caused the PAOCTF's abolition have to be laid at the doorstep of former PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson, who is now running for the Senate under the Puwersa ng Masa. Lacson headed the PAOCTF from its inception and he has to answer to the people whom he is asking to send him to the Senate for the crimes which are being blamed on the agency. Lacson has to explain, for instance, the involvement of his people, led by his right-hand man, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, in Dacer's disappearance. Such is the principle of command responsibility.

In the light of the many crimes now coming out, which involved the PAOCTF, there is now a clamor among People Power Coalition senatorial candidates to have the infamous Kuratong Baleleng case reopened so that Lacson can tell the people what really happened. As PPC senatorial candidate Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada put it, "Lives were lost. The reopening of the (Kuratong Baleleng) case is the only way to clear this very sensitive issue." Lacson should not be allowed to duck this issue during this campaign.

* * *

Readers have called up to complain about Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's pronouncements that sound seditious. For instance, she has said that if her patron, Estrada, were to be arrested, she would foment civil unrest. On another occasion, she promised to shoot herself at the Luneta if the voting turns out to be 13-0 in favor of the PPC. The youths are now frantically campaigning for 13-0 in the hope that Santiago would make good her promise. As her husband, former Local Government Secretary Jun Santiago put it, don't underestimate what Miriam can do. Meaning, she could really shoot herself.

* * *

Judging from what the feisty *senadora's* husband is saying, even he does not seem to have much faith in his wife's stability. But all these aren't as alarming as Santiago's attempts to drive a wedge between "them rich" and "us poor," in the best Estrada tradition. She goes to great lengths to make herself look like a poor girl, but what the poor don't know is that she is building the biggest house in La Vista, Quezon City, a very upscale subdivision. *Aral na aral talaga si Miriam kay Erap.*

By the way, PPC senatorial candidate Winnie Monsod ought to press Santiago to a debate, despite the latter's hesitation. *Takot ba si Miriam kay Winnie?* Monsod, who would definitely make up for the dearth of economists in the Senate if elected, can beat Santiago in a debate without having to use those highfalutin' words that the latter is fond of using to confuse the issues. Monsod can cut straight to the heart of the economic issues.

* * *

A few days ago, I wrote about PPC *balik-senador* Ernesto Herrera's staunch advocacy against drugs and his enlightened legislative measures for labor during his Senate years. I also wrote that Herrera, being the only visibly disabled among the senatorial candidates, could generate a lot of sympathy precisely because he had overcome his physical handicap caused by polio in his childhood. But I failed to stress one aspect that Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez pointed out to me over the weekend: Herrera has courage and guts.

Alvarez recalled that when he filed the resolution in the House seeking the impeachment of President Estrada, he couldn't get his colleagues to sign it. He called up Herrera who was out of town and without hesitation the latter told him to affix his signature to the impeachment resolution. Alvarez had to use the high-tech method of scanning his colleague's signature. It would take another two weeks before their House colleagues began to join them.

* * *

In the light of the government's plan to reorganize the boards of San Miguel Corp. and the United Coconut Planters Bank, two key private institutions whose majority stocks were said to have been purchased with coconut levy funds, the one million coconut farmers are agitating that their true representatives be assigned to these boards, instead of the fake farmers who have been claiming to represent them. From the looks of it, the Estrada appointees to the SMC board are giving the Macapagal administration a hard time by refusing to give up their seats. Because of this, administration officials were forced to go to the Supreme Court to seek the old nominees' removal. It seems to be a case of *kapal muks;* the Estrada people should know that their days are over and that the game is played this way, but they refuse to go. Oral arguments are scheduled to be heard today on the motion for a restraining order filed recently by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), seeking to prevent Estrada's nominees to the UCPB board from voting.

* * *

From what I gather from reliable sources, it was quite providential that Edsa Dos occurred last January, for by June of this year, the whole coco levy package would have been lost, as the Estrada PCGG had already rested its case, arguing that there was no evidence against Eduardo Cojuangco and company. But after Edsa Dos Macapagal administration officials discovered some 27 boxes of documents on the coco levy case in the vaults of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. New Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo has gathered some student volunteers from the leading law schools in Metro Manila to catalogue and inventory these documents, and the coco levy cases will be pursued anew.

To begin with, the PCGG is being overhauled. Haydee Yorac will come in as chief after the elections, and there will also be two new commissioners who will join the sole remaining commissioner, Jorge Sarmiento. One of them is Ruben Carranza, who resigned as assistant secretary at the defense department in protest against the Estrada administration last October. Carranza, who is a bar topnotcher, will be joined by UP law Prof. Victoria Avena, whom TV viewers will remember as the knowledgeable impeachment commentator. To illustrate the government's resolve in pursuing the coco levy cases, four assistant solicitor generals will also be assigned to those cases, backed up by new lawyers from the Office of the Solicitor General.

Men in limbo

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RECENTLY, I had a chance to talk with two men still closely identified with former president (and future jailbird) Estrada despite their leaving Erap's side at the height of People Power II. This act of "betrayal" has earned them the ire of Erap loyalists though it has not entirely endeared them to the anti-Erap camp, either.

Call them "men in limbo" then, seeking to carve out a space in public and political life that will allow them to straddle their past association with the discredited president and a future (they hope) in the new dispensation.

Orly Mercado, former defense secretary under Erap and (briefly) Ms Macapagal, is running for senator as an independent and a "guest candidate" of the Puwersa ng Masa. Robert Aventajado, a long-time friend and confidante of Erap, and as such was widely perceived as one of the most powerful personalities in the past administration, is the first nominee of Bagong Bayani, a party-list group that espouses the causes of overseas Filipino workers.

Unlike other public figures like Ma(i)d Miriam and Ping the Enforcer, who promise to create mayhem at the Luneta if the People Power Coalition gets its 13-0 wish, Mercado and Aventejado have jettisoned the "*walang iwanan*" mantra of Estrada's inner circle. And yet, they have also refused to join other politicians who loudly denounce the president they once served. Even in private, they are unfailingly gentle in their criticism. Their voices betray no bitterness or anger, but only wistful sadness and a sense of regret at the waste of opportunity for Erap to have, in Mercado's words, "left a personal legacy by which future generations would remember him."

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SUCH a "legacy" is what drives him to pursue a new Senate term, which would be his third, confides Mercado.

Detained upon the declaration of martial law, Mercado, a hard-hitting radio reporter, found a new niche in media upon his release. "Public service" was hardly new to Philippine television, but in "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko," Mercado brought a new approach to on-air charity. He let his destitute guests tell their stories themselves, and in over a decade of hosting the show, Mercado himself would get an education not just on the reality of poverty, but on public health issues and even gender divides. "I noticed that almost 90 percent of the clients of 'Kapwa Ko' were women and children," he recalls. "And it opened my eyes to the fact that because of their biology and responsibilities, women have special health needs that must be addressed directly."

This experience would inform his work as a legislator. His legislative record speaks of the breadth of his interests and passions: the generics drugs law, the total log ban, and other bills on health, environment and defense.

Should he manage to break out of his state of political limbo, Mercado promises to bring innovative thinking toward addressing stubborn basic social problems. Possible approaches to insurgency, he says, are not confined to the military option, but also include livelihood opportunities as well as environmental protection, especially in upland areas.

Still, Mercado is not embittered by the quick dissolution of the dream he shared with Erap. After many years of trying to "get pregnant," Mercado and his second wife Dr. Susy Pineda (also a former Erap official at the Department of Health) finally succeeded only after they had both left the government. The sudden stress-free time may have been a big factor, but the coming baby may also be a harbinger of yet another stage in the political life of a political survivor.

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HE states it matter-of-factly, but Aventajado cannot emphasize enough that he tendered his resignation letter days before the generals made their appearance at the Edsa Shrine. Before then, he says, he had seen Erap, an old friend from San Juan days, only intermittently. "After knowing someone for so long," he confides, "you know when a friend no longer takes your counsel seriously."

The company of friends that Erap kept was never a monolith, an "Erap Inc.," says Aventajado. "He's used to compartmentalizing his life. There would be times when I would be called regularly to Malacañang, and other times when I sensed I had fallen out of favor, and so I would stay away. He (Erap) practiced 'divide and rule,' and never really trusted one group fully."

The tragedy of Joseph Ejercito Estrada, reflects Aventajado, is that "his newest friends were able to pinpoint his weaknesses. They appealed to and exploited the worst aspects of his character."

Though he has a long way to go before fully shedding the "crony" or "Erap friend" label, Aventajado protests that his running with Bagong Bayani does not signal a possible "backdoor entry" for Erap associates into Congress through the party-list system. In the first place, he says, Bagong Bayani already participated in the party-list elections in 1998, though it failed to win a seat. He also claims to have a legitimate stake in the sector, having been an "overseas worker" in the United States for four years in the 1980s.

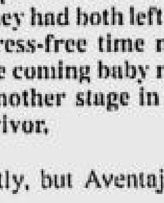
Among the party's priority legislation: passage of the absentee voting bill for overseas workers (he's amenable to testing the concept in a pilot area, say, Hong Kong), streamlining of recruitment and licensing processes, strengthening of protection mechanisms for OFWs who get into trouble abroad.

Limbo, so our catechism teaches us, is the place reserved for the souls of babies who die before they are baptized. Not having ever sinned, but not having been born to eternal life, they are doomed to linger forever on the fringes of salvation. Mercado and Aventajado must be praying then that the place they're in is only purgatory, where redemption is possible.

Shenanigans on the cultural scene

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



YOU wouldn't believe the things that go on in the culture field. One would think that its one area that would be above politics and no one would bother with it since there's seldom a budget of any significant amount. Well, guess again. They're again battling for the chairmanship and the executive directorship of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). I don't know all the names involved and certainly I am in the dark as to why anyone would bother, but rumors are that former Sen. Leticia Shahani is campaigning for the chairmanship.

But, hey, that's not all. A letter to the President was circulated at Westin Plaza's Thursday Kapihan a couple of weeks ago extolling Carmen Padilla as executive director and recommending the Return of the Jedi. (I've got my metaphors mixed up but never mind *na.*)

I have this sneaking suspicion that government must be the only game in town. Otherwise, why are people so interested in these positions? I mean, surely there must be life outside the government although to judge by the number of candidates running for office, not to mention their wives, children, sisters and assorted relatives, I guess not. Let's just pray that Ms Macapagal manages to create more investments so that Filipinos can manage to earn a living outside the government and culture can finally be removed from the clutches of politicians. (It may also create the beneficial side effect of broadening our entertainment base which appears at the moment to be severely limited to who will make the Magic 13.)

In reference now to the gathering storm I will reproduce both the letter signed by Rosa Vallejo, retired dean of the Institute of Library Science, University of the Philippines, dated Feb. 1 and addressed to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, as well as Dr. Jaime Laya's letter also to the President answering the charges made.

Vallejo's letter:

"Dear Mrs. President:

"The Philippines has just overcome serious political crisis that would have completely destroyed the moral basis of government and with it everything that our Republic stands for. Through the sovereign authority of the people, we have once again demonstrated the strength of democratic institutions in our country.

"I was therefore very happy to see your assumption to the Presidency and your great concern for the civil service and the people that run the bureaucracy. Civil servants have suffered in the past administration and it is therefore about time that these honorable men and women be given their due. Civil servants comprise a majority of the wage-earning middle class. They are the first to suffer the economic toll caused by institutionalized and illegal treatment of one civil servant, Mrs. Carmen D. Padilla at the National Commission of Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

"I had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Padilla as a member of the NCCA Committee on Libraries and Information Services from the time the NCCA was created by R.A. 7356 that was signed by President Corazon Aquino. I served as vice chairman of that committee until mid-1992 when I became its chair until 1998. At present I am a member of the executive board of the committee.

"Mrs. Carmen Padilla was executive director of the NCCA from 1992-1998 until she was booted out of office under legally questionable circumstances by the NCCA chair, Mr. Jaime Laya. Mr. Laya called a legally questionable election in the NCCA Board of Commissioners in order to replace Mrs. Padilla as executive director. As per RA 7356, **the President of the Philippines appoints the executive director,** not the NCCA Board of Commissioners or its chair.

(Dr. Laya: Mrs. Padilla was never appointed executive director of the NCCA. Her only appointment was as executive director of the defunct Presidential Commission on Culture and the Arts.)

"Mr. Laya filed harassment charges against Mrs. Padilla so that she can (*sic*) be removed from office. Mrs. Padilla is a career executive official in the civil service.

(Dr. Laya: Contrary to Mrs. Vallejo's letter, Mrs. Padilla was never a career executive officer and as such could have been replaced, as she was, by presidential instruction. Consistent with Memorandum Order No. 1 issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, she would have been merely in a temporary capacity pending replacement. The Office of the President authorized the NCCA Board to replace Padilla and install Prof. Virgilio S. Almario as NCCA executive director. The election of Almario was subsequently confirmed by the Office of the President.)

"The Ombudsman and the Presidential Commission against Graft and Corruption subsequently cleared her of any legal liability arising from her service as NCCA executive director.

(Dr. Laya: In pushing for the purchase of what she called "original Katipunan documents," Mrs. Padilla misled the NCCA Board by reporting that the price was much lower than was actually paid and describing the papers as including certain non-existent documents. After verification and due process, the Board then decided to forward the case to PCAGC for administrative investigation. The PCAGC recommended and the Office of the President approved that Mrs. Padilla be placed on a three-month preventive suspension attesting to the seriousness of the case.)

"Despite being cleared of all the charges initiated by Mr. Laya, Mrs. Padilla was not reinstated by the Office of the President. Then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora refused to reinstate her."

(*To be continued*)

Garage sale

Nicole Cue

AT FIRST, having a garage sale sounded like a good idea. Get rid of extra stuff, make money off them and end up with a somewhat cleaner house.

But I suppose our garage sale had a different reason: we were cleaning out the house because we were moving out. To another country, that is, and thinking about it depresses me.

I suppose that's odd, and what's odder is that I don't see the irony of my being sad rather than excited. I have a long story that will explain why, but suffice it to say that, as the cliché goes, it's a different ball game altogether.

Cleaning up and digging through our boxes and closets were a quiet and sad experience. But there were times when our eyes would light up upon seeing a particular object that flicked on our memory card and got us chattering away. I found things I thought I'd lost, unearthed hidden treasures (or trash), saw objects I hadn't seen again for a long time, and we even got ourselves surprised from time to time when we opened boxes whose contents hadn't seen the light of day for years and years. Like my parents' wedding gifts, our baby toys and early ABC books, memorabilia from the time when my parents were confused young adults like I am now.

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I never thought we had hundreds and hundreds of 45 rpms, and vinyl records of Johnny Mathis, The Lettermen, Perry Como, Brothers Four, The Beatles, Stevie Wonder—so many voices from way back when, and whose songs became a bittersweet melody that suddenly made me realize how much we had all grown. And as we closed our eyes, we cherished those moments again, enveloped by nostalgic scents.

When the garage sale finally started and when the first few customers came in, surprisingly, I felt vulnerable. It was as if my secrets—my family's secrets, our habits, our traditions—were being laid out in the open, defenseless, and I couldn't stop them from being discovered by strangers, or even friends whom we willingly allowed to cross the border of friendship into knowing more about us than they should. As I said, it was an odd feeling, though I might be exaggerating. After all, this was an exceptional situation, because we were moving out and we had to sell almost everything we owned. But I never thought that the history these items in our garage sale revealed would be so extensive.

The marble table used to be in my late grandfather's house, with those Spanish-style *capiz* and wood windows. The glass-encased wooden bookcase stored cookbooks, classics and spy novels in my mother's childhood home during post-war Manila. My father's heavy narra study desk was inherited from his father and served as the repository of our business documents. The bed my youngest brother was sleeping in used to be mine. My bed became my throne of sorts ever since grade school. The different bags being sold showcased the evolution of my mother's fashion taste. The foldable narra dining table reminded my father of their old house in Isabela. The faint markings and scratches on the low center table in the sala were caused by juices spilled from baby drinking containers, sweat beads from old drinking glasses that broke long ago, bowls of popcorn for late night movies, and a history of spring cleaning.

Suddenly, these objects became stories and the house became a home. You started forgiving, accepting, relishing and loving your family, and everything that happened. I wished we never had to leave. I wished we could keep on living in the house, with all those objects and continue piling up memories…or trash.

No matter how you looked at it, there was an interesting bit of narrative behind it. I felt deeply sad, but also I wondered if I should cry at all. I was looking forward to the day when we would build the continuation of our memories in a different place with new things. I also looked forward to the day when I would start writing another chapter in our family's story, collecting days, nights and various things into more stories so that we could all live on and on.

I thought about all these so that I wouldn't feel so sad and vulnerable. I also hope that the nice people who bought the containers of our memories would find a place for them in their own life stories.

Nicole Cue, 21, is a freelance writer who is trying to develop her skills in digital art and photography. Her family moved to New York last month.

Growing older

Melissa Rodriguez Lim

I'M 18 years, 6 months and 12 days old as I write this. Stupid as it may sound (it makes me think of Bryan McKnight and his 'counting songs'). I've been giving this fact a great deal of thought lately.

I remember that when I was 14, I would pass myself off as 15, and when I was 15, I'd say I was 16. It was a vicious cycle. I'm not even sure now why I did that. It was probably because when you're at that age, you're stuck. You're not young anymore—but then, you're not old either. You're at a point where you're trying to find your own niche in life and you have no idea where to start.

Well, that was the case with me. And to be perfectly honest, it still is. The only thing different now is that I no longer pretend to be a year older than I am. In fact, I'm desperately hanging on to being 18.

I've found out that 18 is the point in your life when you have to come up with something to show for all those years of self-searching. If you cannot produce something concrete, then at least you have to show the slightest bit of direction.

I was always confident I'd have plenty to show when the time came like all the people around me. I've done about a million different things since I was a child. I went through ballet, jazz and Hawaiian dance lessons. I had voice, piano and guitar lessons. Writing, selling odds and ends to classmates, reading law books when I was 11—you name it, I've tried it. I figured going through all that would lead me to my one true calling. I did quite well with most of the things I tried, but I was not really great at anything.

Now, well on my way to being 19, I'm having trouble in college because a lot of things are going through my mind. I still don't know what I want. I keep changing my mind on what course to take. That may not seem like a big deal to others but it matters to me and to my future.

I will not take a course just to get a diploma. I most certainly will not shift to another course just so I'll get a high-paying job in which I really have no interest. Call me naïve, idealistic or just plain stupid, but I still think there's more to life than making money.

Older people keep telling me I'm kidding myself, that basically everything boils down to money. That's sad. Granted we do need money to survive, still it's not everything. There's love for what you do. There's going home to your family happy instead of looking like Godzilla because you had a bad day at work. Besides, if you're happy and good at what you do, the money and practically everything else will fall into place.

Maybe when you grow old you forget your dreams or leave them behind to enter the "real world" that adults keep talking to us kids about.

Every day I'm growing older and feeling more pressure to come up with something. I'm in a race with time. I have to have something to show before I grow up. I'm not going to change the world (I can't even handle myself yet). I just want to prove that I was right all along. That somehow I can survive in the "real world" without having to compromise my vision of what life should be like.

It's taking me a long time, but that's okay. If it would be anywhere near what I've pictured it out to be, it'll be worth the waiting. Then I can look my parents in the eye and tell them that they don't have to explain to family and friends how their only daughter wasted three years of her life in college without anything to show for it. Maybe then I wouldn't be a disappointment to them. I'm still young, and I can dream.

Melissa Rodriguez Lim, 18, is a third year "non-major" in a university in Quezon City.

LETTERS

Rice imports killing local agriculture

DESPITE a rise in local production, the National Food Authority and the Department of Agriculture are still insisting on importing more than 150,000 metric tons of rice from Thailand. This means P2.4 billion lost to local rice producers.

There is a P16 difference between local and imported rice. Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor is deluding himself if he thinks that selling cheaper imported rice can be good for the market and benefit poor farmers. Importation kills local agricultural production in the long run despite short-term benefits like relatively low prices. More importantly, importation jeopardizes our food security as self-sufficiency is not developed.

Where will the P2.4 billion go? Definitely not to the local farmers in the form of farm-to-market roads, seeds, subsidies and storage facilities. Farmers receive fewer benefits and lower subsidies every year.

Should this continue, local crop production will become virtually non-existent along with the drive toward fulfilling the provisions of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture (WTO-AoA) of ever-increasing agriculture imports.

What can we hope from this new administration which openly advocates liberalizing agriculture due to globalization?

We urge the Macapagal administration stop the importation of rice and of other agricultural products.

The DA and the NFA should give back the P2.4 billion lost to farmers in the form of government subsidies and support, otherwise, the Filipino peasantry can expect only further destitution under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.—**PABLO ROSALES, secretary general, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, 59 Imperial St., Cubao, Quezon City**

Qualifications for public office

ONE must submit college records, date of birth, age, height, weight, civil status, religion and many other information, including medical records, character references, past experiences, letters of recommendation in order to be considered, if at all, for an opening in the job market that pays a little more than the minimum wage. Yet, in order to qualify for the job of president, senator, congressman or town mayor, one needs only prove that he has the ability to sing and dance on a stage or deliver empty speeches or prove that one has achieved mediocrity in public or private life. Candidates with military backgrounds have only to prove that they were brave enough or skillful enough to have killed in battle and survived.

Then we have candidates too who are lawyers or law professors. They are among the best of political candidates, especially those lawyers who are on the legal side of what is decaying, instead of what is growing, in the country.

In the Philippines we love freedom and democracy, but we have yet to love developing ourselves as an educated society.—**POCH SUZARA, 8 Zipper St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City**

Reinstatement of reserve officers

I AM writing this letter for our group, composed mostly of reserved officers of the Philippine Army. We are seeking your help regarding our immediate reinstatement into active military service.

We hope President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva will be able to read this letter so that they can act on our request.

On Aug. 30, 2000, the higher command issued a directive (Nr.01 GHQ, AFP) which concerns the reentry/re CAD/reinstatement of Philippine Army officers. With this directive, all of us were advised to submit documents including local, police and NBI clearance to the secretary of the Reinstatement Board, Capt. Edwin B. Acupan of the G1, PA, but up to this time, our efforts have been in vain. Once, we followed up our case with the secretary of the board but he simply told us to "just wait" or "we will call you ASAP."

It seems to us that they are not working on our papers and will not act on the directive coming from the higher command. We need the job in order to support our families better and pursue our military careers.—**1LT. BERNARD MONARES, PA, Cabreros Street, Riverside RED V, Lucena City**

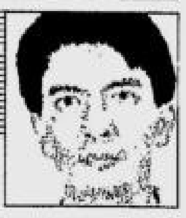
Estrada's dream world

ERAP Estrada obviously hasn't realized he's no longer acting in a movie. His advisers should tell him he's living in the real world and a real prison cell awaits him, if he's not lucky. It's not a movie where he can get away with half-baked punch-lines like "Arrest me."

I think it's about time the government takes up his challenge and fast-tracked the filing of charges against the former president. Although, of course, government lawyers have to contend with Erap's hotshot lawyers who will use every trick in the law books to delay the filing of the plunder cases. Still, Erap has to learn his lesson that there's a great difference between acting in the movies and being held responsible for his wrongdoings.—**EDUARDO ALFONSO, J. Luna, Novaliches, Quezon City**

Way to go

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

I LOST two friends this past month—lost as in their going off to another life or another world. Both Rock and Archie were trend-setters, so it wasn't surprising even their deaths, and their funerals, were a bit unorthodox. I thought I'd share some memories of what happened, a kind of post-Easter reflection on how Filipinos are rethinking death and resurrection.

I'll rewind a bit and talk about how Archie and Rock left us. Ever heard of "rituals of letting go?" I don't know who coined the phrase, but I suspect it's another one of those innovations of local women's groups. The first time I heard about such rituals was the one they had for another feminist, Adul de Leon, a few years back. Unfortunately, I missed both Adul's and Rock's, both times because I was away from Manila, but from what the women tell me, these rituals can be powerful.

So, what's this ritual of letting go? It's something you do for people like Adul and Rock, women who aren't afraid of death but who are so full of commitments in this life that they don't want to let go. That's where friends gather around to assure the dying, "It's OK, we'll manage. You can go. You can rest." (Even if, deep down, we know it will never be the same once they go.)

I thought about the rituals of letting go, too, as I rushed over to be with Archie. Because Archie's with the Iglesia ni Cristo, I knew there wouldn't be extreme unction and I wondered what might be an appropriate ritual of passage for him. But when I got to his room and saw his nephew sitting at his bedside and just holding his hand, I knew that was as good a ritual as any. Let me warn you that isn't as easy as it sounds. When you hold the hands of the dying, you can get quite anxious: when the grip is weak you worry they're slipping away, and when the grip is strong, you wonder if they're in pain or in distress. I learned, eventually, not to read too much into that grip and after a while, it seemed almost natural, realizing that what's important is that you hold on to the patient so they can hold on to life.

It helped, of course, that it was Archie. I'm pretty sure he knew how we felt, and didn't want us to feel down. So that night, as several of us hovered around by his bed, he suddenly pulled down his blanket and began to speak. I leaned forward, wondering if he was going to complain about the oxygen tubes, or chest pain, or make some last request. But no, Archie, being Archie, mumbled one word as he pointed to his exposed legs: "Flawless." (Yes, Archie, they were a bit skinny but they were still flawless *Pang* Miss U *nga.)*

I suspect Archie wasn't just cheering us up. I'm sure he'd spotted Ariel, a cute friend who was with us in the room. I thought, anything for Archie, and asked Ariel to give him a massage, which he did, which is why, I think, Archie defied all the doctors' predictions and lived another day.

Way to go, no? But Filipino style, the dying's only the beginning. The wake and the funeral are always "productions" in their own right. The running priest, Fr. Roberto Reyes, officiated at Rock's memorial Mass, and couldn't resist reminding the President—yes, Ms Macapagal herself—about Christ's temptations in the desert. Then there was the UP Madrigal Singers moving everyone to tears. And the eulogies that made us smile as we remembered Rock, dancing away in discos.

Times do change and so do our rituals for the dead. Rock's was a feminist funeral, all the way up to women pallbearers. (Well, half of the pallbearers at least.) Then there was the cremation. I'm so glad the Catholic Church now allows cremations, which are so much more environmentally friendly and which comes so much closer to what we've all been taught about our lives, from ash to ash. (Rock left us, incidentally, on Ash Wednesday.)

But I think Filipinos will need time to adjust to the cremations. For starters, you can't say you're going to a *libing* (what is a cremation in Filipino?). Filipinos also tend to feel uneasy about the burning process. Aida Santos Maranan was telling me about how horrified her household helper was when she found out Rock was going to be cremated. "*Patay na, pahihirapan pa.*" She was even more aghast when she heard that some people just scatter the ashes on Mount Banahaw, or over the Manila Bay. (I'd rise from the dead, too, if they dumped me in Manila Bay, aware of all the gook that's in there.)

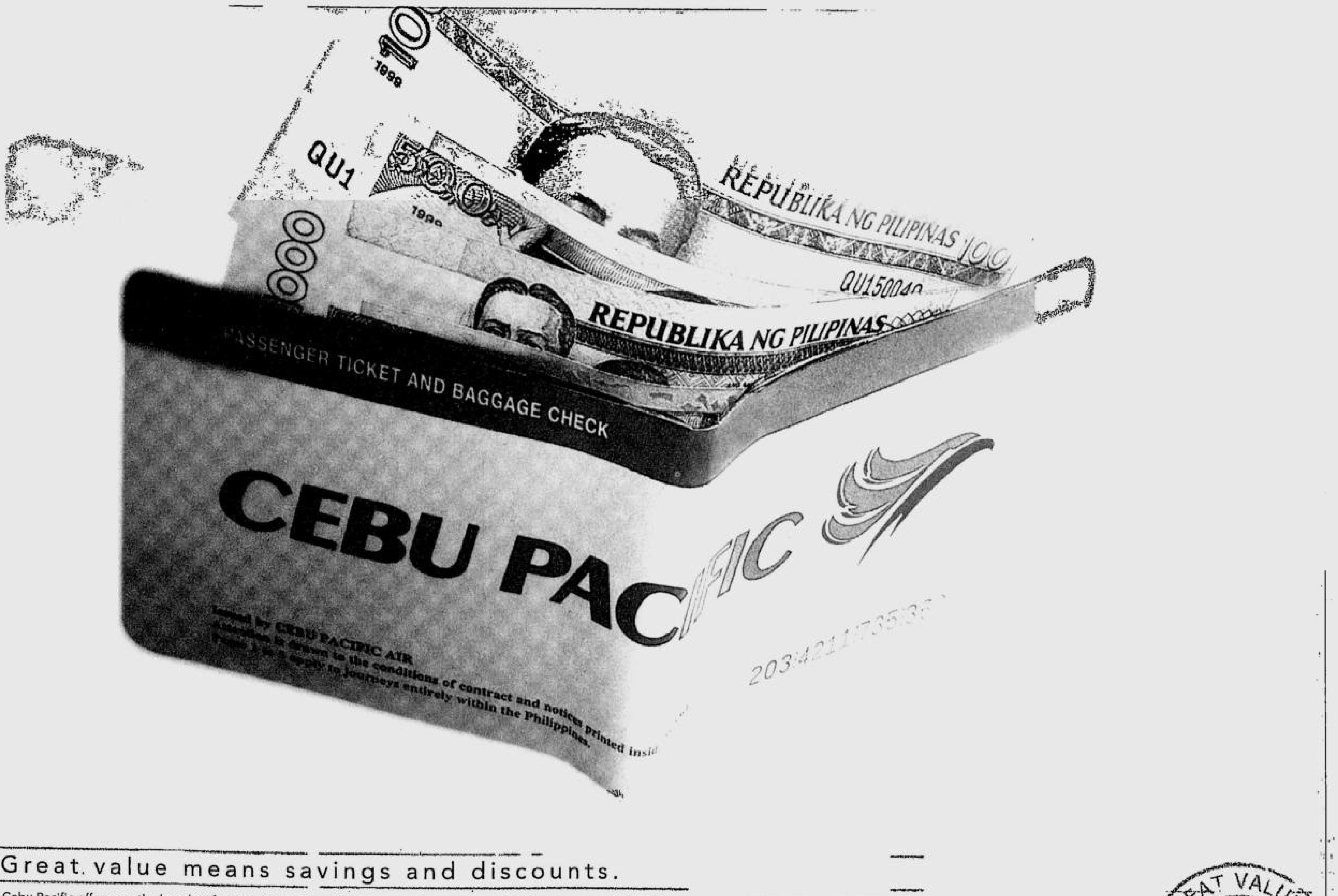
Maybe though, we don't really need new rituals for cremation. It's the simple, time-tested gestures that count so much. I liked the way Rock's family brought out her ashes in a box and people tapping it gently, a bit like the "Give me five" gesture, to say goodbye.

It's all a matter of recasting old rituals. The long wait at the cremation—three hours—becomes an extended wake, for people to eat some more, and tell stories. In Archie's case, on the last night of the wake, I went off with his friends to a karaoke joint right next to the *funeraria* where they drove me nuts singing over and over again, "Habang may buhay." Alvin, a Fil-Am friend who went to the wake as well, could not believe there was a karoke joint next to a funeral parlor, but then why not, we sing and drink and play cards anyway in the funeral parlor so why not in a karaoke joint? I am sure the karaoke played a significant part in helping Archie's friends to cope. Like Archie, most of them were HIV positive.

I'm going to end with one more plug for something related to cremation. When a person is cremated the corpse is removed from the coffin, so this means the casket can be recycled. After Rock's cremation, her coffin went to COSE, a group working with the elderly. Now, that's another way to go, still helping people to the very end.

If you want to work out a similar arrangement, contact them at 14-D Manhattan St., Cubao, Quezon City. Their telephone numbers are 722-0418 and 410-4373.

Comments to miguel@pinoy kasi.org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ZAMBOANGA	7 x weekly	P 3,295	P 2,639
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Israel jets attack Syrian army

SHTAURA, Lebanon—Israel early yesterday killed at least two Syrian soldiers in air attacks on Syrian positions in Lebanon, security officials said, after a Hezbollah border attack on an Israeli tank killed a soldier at the weekend.

Five Syrian soldiers were wounded in the attacks by an unspecified number of jets on a Syrian radar station in the mountainous region along Lebanon's border with Syria at Dhar al Baydar, 45 km east of Beirut, at 12:30 a.m. Monday (5:30 a.m. in Manila)

The planes also fired at a Syrian anti-aircraft position two kilometers away in the Mdeirej-Hammana region near the Beirut-Damascus highway, the officials said.

The first deliberate attack by Israel against the Syrian Army since 1982 came after the death of an Israeli soldier in an attack by the Shiite Hezbollah movement in the disputed Shebaa farms border region on Saturday.

Israel yesterday said after the air raid that it would not tolerate "terrorism" by the Hezbollah movement, which it said was acting under Syrian patronage.

The Israeli government said after a special security Cabinet meeting: "Hezbollah's terrorist operations are carried out with the knowledge of Syria and under its patronage." The government called on Lebanon "to deploy its Army" on the border with Israel.

The Israeli Army said its warplanes attacked the radar post following "heavy fire" by Hezbollah in the last month and particularly at the weekend, when the Israeli soldier was killed.

Israel said it was the eighth attack along the border since its withdrawal from Lebanon in May under UN Security Council Resolution 425 after a 22-year occupation.

"Until now, Israel has demonstrated great restraint in the face of these attacks. However, despite the appeal to Syria to exert its influence on Lebanon, Syria—without whom this organization cannot operate from Lebanon, and whose Army is situated in Lebanon—has not lifted a finger," the government statement said.

It said the government urged Beirut to deploy its Army along the border and called upon Lebanon and Syria "to respect and carry out UN Security Council Resolution 425."

Security officials here said the Israeli planes also made four runs over the Baydar pass, firing six missiles during the raid on the mountainous region overlooking the Bekaa plain in eastern Lebanon.

The officials said ambulances from Shtaura where the Syrian headquarters in Lebanon are located brought back the dead and wounded. *AFP*

WARNING
TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to the attention of the **Business Software Alliance (BSA)** that unscrupulous individuals have been conducting search and seizure operations on several business establishments purportedly on behalf of the BSA. The raids were conducted without the assistance of the **National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)** or any other duly authorized law enforcement agency and without any search warrant. The seizure involved computer units allegedly loaded with unlicensed software of BSA member companies. After seizing the computers, the group demands money for the return of the computers.

The BSA only conducts raids in cooperation with duly authorized law enforcement agencies, particularly the NBI, and only in accordance with legal processes.

Any raid conducted by any group of persons purportedly authorized by the BSA but without the assistance of duly authorized law enforcement agencies such as the NBI and not in accordance with legal processes such as an appropriate search warrant is highly illegal and is not in any way authorized by, or with the participation of, the BSA.

BSA
Business Software Alliance

Christian group joins Muslim 'martyr squads' to prevent Wahid ouster

JAKARTA—A group of Christians have joined a Muslim-dominated body vowing to lay down their lives if needed to prevent Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid being ousted, it was announced yesterday.

"The number is not many. We have registered 29 people from the East Java Christian community," Wiro Sugiman, coordinator of the Front for the Defenders of Truth (FKP) from East Java province, said.

East Java is Wahid's political heartland and home to millions of members of the massive Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) Islamic organization, which Wahid led for 15 years.

Sugiman said the figure did not include several Catholic students who had also joined the front, which has by now drawn around 50,000 members.

Wahid's supporters have undergone "war" training in recent days in several districts of East Java.

They are expected to flood Jakarta on April 29 to join a rally in support of Wahid, who is under mounting pressure to resign after he was censured by parliament in February.

The rally, which will be held to pray for peace, will take place the day before parliament is to decide whether to issue a second censure motion against Wahid.

If Wahid's response to a second censure fails to appease the legislators, a special impeachment session of the national assembly could be convened by August.

A rival Islamic group, the Muslim Brotherhood, led by cleric Hussein Al Habsyi, threatened to confront Wahid's supporters if police and the military failed to prevent them from running riot.

Al Habsyi has claimed that his group could mobilize at least 150,000 people.

"I call on the police and the military to stay neutral and not to let themselves be used by a fascist and mentally-ill leader," Al Habsyi told the Pro 2 FM radio station, referring to Wahid.

The parliament has accused the Wahid of a role in two multi-million financial scandals, which the president has denied. *AFP*

N. Korea faces new food shortage

BEIJING—North Korea's most recent harvest was the worst since the depths of famine four years ago, leaving the reclusive communist country with only two-thirds of the food it needs, a UN official said yesterday.

Last corn and wheat harvest last autumn, the main source of food for the year, came up 1.8 million tons short, World Food Program representative in North Korea David Morton told reporters in Beijing.

To cope, North Koreans must forage in the hills for wild mushrooms and edible leaves. Leftovers such cabbage stalks are also ground up with wheat to make noodles that offer little nutrition, Morton said.

"We still see malnutrition. There are some indications this may be more than last year," said Morton, who is based in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

His account is a rare glimpse inside the secretive Stalinist society, which has been wracked by hunger for six years. Drought and flood in 1995 combined with the aftermath of decades of communist mismanagement and the loss of Soviet subsidies to push its economy into collapse *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Cops hunt rebs backing Lakas bet

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police officials in Pampanga yesterday sent a team of the Philippine National Police's regional mobile group (RMG) to Candaba town to "neutralize" a communist rebel faction supporting local candidates of the administration Lakas-NUCD.

The RMG's seven-member team, including the local police, will pursue leaders and members of the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan, the armed unit of the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas, according to Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director.

Rafanan said Von Alejandrino, HMB leader, has set up detachments in key parts of Candaba, 40 km east of this city, to guard the bailiwicks of local Lakas-NUCD candidates, particularly reelectionist Mayor Bienvenido Gatus.

Gatus could not be reached for comment as of late yesterday afternoon to confirm the reports. Municipal employees said he was campaigning in the town's remote eastern villages, which were not accessible by cellular phone.

However, the INQUIRER learned that Gatus has no record of supporting any faction of communist rebels in Pampanga during his last two terms as mayor.

This year, however, Gatus has found himself in a tight fix as the Lakas-NUCD, his own party, has fielded Jerry Pelayo, former administrator of Caloocan City, virtually declaring the town a "*sona libre* (free zone)."

Chief Insp. Erecleo Lacap, Candaba police director, was not in his office when the INQUIRER called to verify the election-related activities of the HMB.

Alejandrino was last arrested in Metro Manila last year by members of the Western Police District. He and his two other companions were charged with illegal possession of firearms.

Rafanan said the HMB shifted operations last year to Candaba from its original base in nearby Arayat.

According to him, the Rebolusyonaryong Gerilya ng Arayat, composed of rebel returnees, has taken control of Arayat town.

While Rafanan considered the HMB a "non-formidable group," he said Alejandrino's group could "still stage unlawful activities." ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Council bet dies saving kids

URDANETA CITY—He gave his life so others may live.

This is what council candidate Antonio Rosales, 43, did on Maundy Thursday when he saved the life of his nephew and another child who were almost electrocuted while swimming in a resort here.

Rosales, a Lakas-NUCD candidate for city council, jumped into the pool upon seeing his nephew Jaezr Ferrer, 6, and Rey Ann Reyes, 6, shouting for help at the Lisland Rainforest Resort's children's pool.

He brought the children to safety but lost his life when he got too close to an open wire that caused electric shocks in the pool.

The wire, reports said, was connected to bulbs used in lighting the pool.

Ferrer's parents tried to save the children but they also suffered from electric shock.

When Rosales saw the Ferrer couple complaining of electric shocks, he immediately dived into the pool.

The Ferrer couple was declared safe at the Sacred Heart Hospital here but Rosales died while undergoing treatment.

Rodolfo Begonia, Jaezr's grandfather, said they had to transfer the boy to the Dagupan Doctor's Hospital in Dagupan City when he showed no improvement after two days of confinement here.

The victims went to the resort in Barangay San Vicente here for a family reunion on Thursday.

Begonia said while the boy, who suffered from trauma, has been declared out of danger, he sometimes loses his memory and suffers from poor eyesight.

He said there could have been more victims if the other children did not go out of the pool to have their lunch.

"Jaezr loved the water so he stayed. When he felt the electric shock, he shouted and a young girl, Rey Ann Reyes, tried to help him," he said.

Reyes was taken out of the hospital's intensive care unit.

Choy Constantino, Rosales' party mate, said the Rosales family is planning to sue the owners of the resort for the incident.

"It's very sad because Rosales is a close friend of the Lisland owners," he said. ***Yolanda Fuertes with a report from Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Cop's rifle used in rampage

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY--Two persons, including a policeman, were killed when a man believed to be mentally ill entered a police station, grabbed an M-16 rifle on top of a table and went on a shooting rampage yesterday noon.

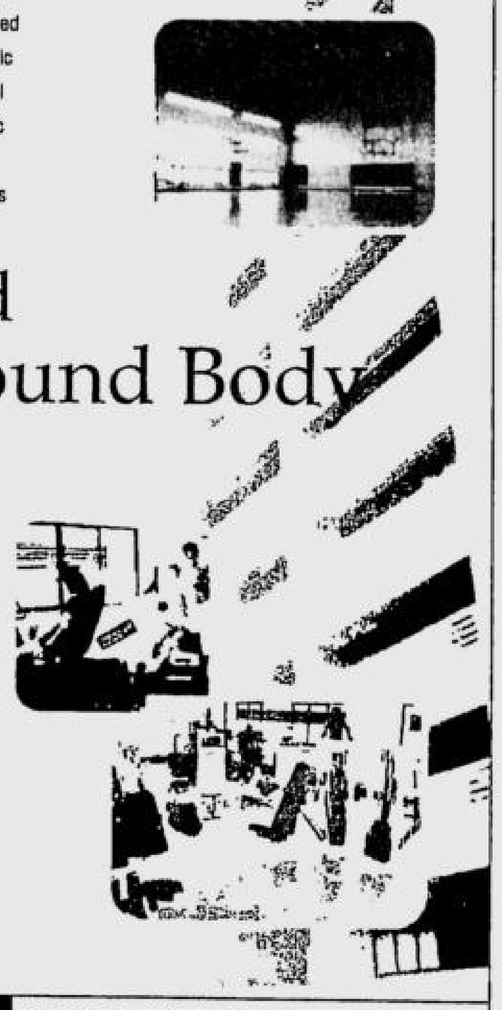
P03 Jesus Melendez of the Mandurriao District police station died on the spot after a bullet shattered his head. He was found lying face down inside the police station that was littered with M-16 bullet casings and bloodstains.

The suspect was also killed after he engaged the policemen in a 30-minute firefight. The policemen were only able to stop him after he ran out of bullets.

He was later identified as John Randy Tupas of Dumarao town in Capiz based on a driver's license found in his wallet.

Radio station dyOK said four policemen were on duty when the suspect casually entered the station and grabbed the rifle left on the table by a policeman identified only as P03 Mosqueto.

Melendez was believed to have been hit in the first burst of gunfire while the other policemen sought cover. The police were still looking into the background of the suspect.



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12 KASO. ISANG KASAGUTAN:

HUSTISYA.

Labindalawang kaso ang isinampa laban sa napatalsik na Pangulo pagkaraan ng impeachment trial sa Senado.

Kabilang sa mga kaso:
- P500 milyong suhol mula sa mga Jueteng Lord.
- P3.3 bilyon na "unexplained wealth" sa pangalan ni Jose Velarde.
- P150 milyon na "unexplained wealth" sa pagbili ng Boracay Mansion.
- P1.8 bilyon ng SSS at GSIS na ginamit pambili ng shares ng Belle Corporation at Waterfront Hotel.
- Pagbulsa sa P130 milyon Tobacco Excise Tax.
- Pagnanakaw sa gobyerno at katiwalian o "graft and corruption."
- Pagtataksil sa tiwala ng bayan o "betrayal of public trust."
- Sadyang paglabag sa Saligang Batas o "culpable violation of the Constitution."
- Pagsisinungaling sa pag-file ng "Statement ng Assets and Liabilities."

Kailangang harapin ng dating Pangulo ang mga kaso sa hukuman. Pero bago siya humarap sa husgado, kailangan siyang arestuhin at ibilanggo dahil ang mga kaso ay may kasamang "plunder", isang krimen na hindi maaaring piyansahan.

Katungkulan ng gobyernong iharap siya sa hukuman para sagutin ang mga paratang laban sa kanya, para magbalik ang tiwala ng taong-bayan sa pamahalaan at para manumbalik ang kompiyansa ng mga foreign investors sa sistema ng ating demokrasya at sa kalusugan ng ekonomiya. Kailangang ipatupad ang batas nang pantay-pantay.

May ilang nagsasabi na hindi dapat ikulong ang dating Pangulo dahil "kawawa" naman daw siya.

Pero paano naman ang hustisya?

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It's a small world for Erap, Gloria in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—It's a small world for President Macapagal-Arroyo and her predecessor, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Ms Macapagal's family went to this mountain resort city for a Holy Week retreat. But unknown to her, while she was playing golf at Camp John Hay at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Estrada was resting in a cottage, also in John Hay, less than a kilometer away from where she was.

Estrada spent two days here after attending the campaign sorties of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates in Baguio City and La Trinidad, Benguet.

Ms Macapagal arrived here on Thursday noon and later played golf with her husband, lawyer Mike Arroyo, son Mikey and other officials and friends.

She was on the 16th hole at almost 6 p.m. Thursday when she received news that Abu Sayyaf hostage Jeffrey Schilling was finally rescued in Luuk, Sulu, after eight months in captivity.

"She gave out a big shout and began to hit the ball harder," recalled First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who was on the same flight.

Mr. Arroyo said the President was playing golf with US Charge d' Affaires Michael Malinowski, Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III and publicist Babes Romualdez.

"He (Malinowski) immediately called Washington D.C., it was five in the morning there at that time, and asked to be connected to Carol Schilling (Jeffrey's mother)," Mr. Arroyo told the INQUIRER.

Ms Macapagal was excited enough to finish her golf game. Her husband, however, would not reveal her score.

It was coincidental that Estrada, whom Ms Macapagal succeeded after the People Power II in January, was in John Hay while she was playing golf.

"I heard about it but that's not a big deal," Mr. Arroyo told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER could not confirm whether the President was informed of Estrada's presence in John Hay.

Baguio Mayor Mauricio Domogan, who was on the golf flight after Ms Macapagal's, said Estrada left late Thursday afternoon.

Estrada stayed at the Commander's Cottage, also known as Cabin 116 at Camp John Hay.

After the La Trinidad rally on Wednesday night, Estrada returned to his cottage. Reports gathered by the INQUIRER said he did not leave the cottage on Thursday morning. ***Frank Cimatu and Robert Abaño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Lawyer held hostage in court

ILOILO CITY—A prisoner who was recently sentenced to death for raping his stepdaughter held hostage a woman prosecutor for more than an hour inside a courtroom about noon yesterday.

John Nequia, 49, a native of Oton town, poked a knife in the neck of Assistant Prosecutor Portia Cabalum, and threatened to kill her if his demands—P40,000, a Honda Civic car, two Armalite rifles and two .45 cal. Pistols—were not met.

The hostage drama ended about 12:20 p.m. after Nequia was convinced by Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor to let the fiscal go.

Except for a scratch in her neck, apparently from the pressure of the knife, the fiscal was unhurt.

Nequia was at Branch 30 of the Regional Trial Court yesterday for a hearing of another case, acts of lasciviousness, filed by his other stepdaughter.

Nequia arrived at the court escorted by three jailguards who later removed the prisoner's handcuffs.

But the hearing did not push through because Neguia's lawyer, Gemalyn Tarol, did not show up.

Court employees said Nequia grabbed Cabalum, wrapped his right hand around her neck and pulled out his crudely fashioned knife. He forced Cabalum to sit on his lap while onlookers panicked and authorities came running over.

He then handed his demand, scrawled on a cigarette foil, to a woman court employee.

After the brief hostage-taking, Nequia was given hamburger and soda before he was sent back to jail.

Jimmy Almendros, deputy jail warden, said guards did not search Nequia because "there was nothing unusual about (his) behavior."

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Pols using ambulances to move drugs, guns

MARAWI CITY—Ambulances donated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to various municipalities in Lanao del Sur will be searched by the military in the wake of intelligence reports that some politicians have been using these vehicles to transport drugs, guns and other illegal stuff.

Col. Santiago Prejido, chief of the Army's 401st Brigade, said the search on the ambulances would be conducted in coordination with health and police authorities.

"Our (men at the) checkpoints do not check these ambulances when they pass so local politicians thought it was the safest way to transport drugs and firearms," Prejido told the INQUIRER.

Prejido did not say how many PCSO-donated ambulances there are in the province but said most town officials who received ambulances from the PCSO "were guilty of the offense."

Gov. Mahid Mutilan said if the reports were true, "the driver must be charged (with) drug pushing and the ambulance custodian investigated."

Marawi City Mayor Omel Basman said a town mayor even removed the emergency siren and the "ambulance" markings on the ambulance that he received, making it appear that the van was his personal property.

"I cannot stop them. I am not the governor of the province. The 'mind-your-own-business' principle applies here," Basman said.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the Cagayan de Oro-based 4th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, said criminal syndicates usually bring illegal drugs to Lanao del Sur before distributing them around Mindanao using the ambulances.

Sources in the military said that during the war with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front last year, local officials sympathetic to the rebels allegedly brought firearms and supplies to them using the ambulances. ***Froilan Gallardo with a report from Violeta Gloria, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

In Bulacan, it rains bra courtesy of bet

BY CARMELA REYES
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BULACAN, Bulacan—To court the votes of women in this town, a vice gubernatorial candidate gave away brassieres.

Rommel Maganto, a bachelor son of controversial police general Romeo Maganto, distributed the bras to housewives and young women residents in Barangay Maysantol here last week. The white bras, though, came only in large sizes and were handed out in hangers.

The distribution of bras elicited laughter among members of the women's group Buhay Kalinga Organization in the village whom Maganto visited last week.

The gesture also created shrieks from amused housewives, unmarried women and young girls.

Corsini Reyes, a Buhay Kalinga officer, said they asked Maganto, 26, to be their guest during a program to distribute school materials to poor students in the village on April 8.

She said Maganto first handed two boxes of ballpens to residents but she later found that brassieres were also being distributed.

Maganto said he did not have his name embroidered or printed on the pairs of bra.

He said around 100 pieces of bra were distributed and not all the women and housewives in Maysantol received one.

Corazon Vilarino, a resident, said Maganto promised her that he would distribute more pairs of bra when his group returned to campaign in Maysantol.

Maganto declined to name his friends and supporters who are supplying him with brassiers for distribution in his visits to the villages.

But he said these come in truckloads and are ready for distribution as part of his campaign giveaways.

"Don't worry, I have truckloads of it. Upon my return, you'll all have brassieres," Maganto assured residents.

Maganto said he sees no malice in giving away brassieres.

"My friends wanted to give me panties, but I turned them down. It would really be bold," he said.

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Erap named brains in Dacer murders

(From page A1)

Dumlao had earlier reported to Mendoza to discuss the Dacer double murder case.

After the initial meeting with Mendoza, Viña then led a group of PNP operatives to the safehouses of his men. The operatives took them into custody one after the other.

The suspects admitted participating in the killing but claimed that more senior PAOCTF agents turned over Dacer and the driver to them.

Mendoza is expected to present the seven suspects to the press today, before turning them over to the NBI.

The seven suspects are among 13 earlier recommended for prosecution by the National Bureau of Investigation, the lead agency tasked to handle the Dacer double murder case.

The INQUIRER source identified four of the seven suspects as SPO4 Marino G. Soberano, a native of Cavite but a member of the PAOCTF-Cebu City; SPO3 Mauro Torres of Indang, Cavite; SPO3 Jose Escalante of Mataas na Lupa, Indang, Cavite; and Crisostomo M. Purification of Capitol Hills, Trece Martires.

The three others are all former civilian agents of the PAOCTF and all natives of Buna Lejos II in Indang, Cavite.

Torres, in his statement, admitted killing Dacer and the driver by using telephone wires to strangle them, according to the source.

'Somebody higher'

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez confirmed yesterday that police are eyeing "somebody higher" than Viña as the suspected mastermind—but also said that his information did not show that Estrada was involved.

Perez revealed this during a news conference where he also announced that the PNP would make public "later this week" the affidavits of "six witnesses" linking the unnamed official to the grisly crime.

He said that the affidavits "could very well point to the mastermind and those who ordered the killing."

He would not reveal the contents of the affidavits to reporters, but said: "Just remembering what I was told already gives me goose bumps."

Another senior intelligence officer told the INQUIRER that Mendoza was expected to announce tomorrow an "explosive" breakthrough in the case.

"It involves the main actors in the case," said Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG director.

The new suspects' statements bolstered the claims of two other witnesses, Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez, that Dacer and driver Manuel Corbito were abducted and killed by agents of the PAOCTF on Nov. 24.

The witnesses, according to INQUIRER sources, accused Viña and a top aide of former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, of involvement in the murders.

In a hastily called press conference in Quezon City yesterday, Aquino, the top sleuth of the task force, said he was the victim of "a criminal frame-up, which is most foul."

"First they have destroyed my career by linking me to various criminal offenses of which I am not guilty. Now they are trying to take my life and liberty by implicating me in the case, which is not bailable and is punishable by death," Aquino said.

In his press conference, Justice Secretary Perez noted that until now, although investigators have established the identities of the alleged killers of Dacer and Corbito, "we still don't know why they were killed."

Hints

During a lull in the news conference, Perez was asked in jest whether authorities believed that "somebody higher" than Viña was behind Dacer's tragic end.

"Yes," the secretary answered.

He was asked whether the suspect was "a senatorial candidate."

Perez smiled and said, "*libot nga nang libot, eh. Hindi ko alam kung nagtu-tour* (he has been traveling around the country. I don't know if he's on a tour)."

In an earlier INQUIRER report, an intelligence source revealed that the four policemen who surrendered to authorities told their interrogators that they were instructed by colleagues and a PAOCTF officer to "waste" Dacer and Corbito.

When Dacer was abducted, the task force was headed by Lacson, who is now running for the Senate as an opposition candidate.

The Department of Justice will begin a preliminary investigation of the Dacer case on April 23.

"We are awaiting the completion of the new affidavits. We were informed that the PNP will present additional witnesses and it is possible that (those who will be named) are not confined to the participants (in the killing) but also those who ordered it," Perez said.

Former boss

None of the reporters at yesterday's news briefing asked whether Lacson or Estrada were being eyed as suspects.

A broadcast reporter asked if the unnamed suspect's "former boss" was mentioned in the affidavits.

"*Palagay ko 'yung dating amo hindi kasali. Tinanong ko din 'yon, eh* (I think that former boss wasn't a part of it. I asked the same question)," Perez replied.

Later, he said he followed up the Dacer case with PNP chief Mendoza at a Cabinet cluster meeting at the Manila Hotel on Black Saturday.

Perez asked Mendoza "whether the suspected mastermind is still in the country and whether *libot ba nang libot sa bansa*—and Mendoza nodded his head."

At his own news conference, Aquino accused the administration's People Power Coalition and several police officers in Camp Crame, whom he did not name, of destroying his reputation.

Aquino is the youngest PNP officer to become a senior superintendent—a rank equivalent to the military's full colonel.

"Aside from the revenge angle, the other reason why they are trying to implicate me in the Dacer case is obviously to get back at General Lacson," Aquino said, although he did not explain what "they" were getting back for.

Aquino said he was informed by Chief Supt. Romulo Sales, former Intelligence Group (IG) director, that ranking police officials were planning to liquidate him and his boss.

Confidential documents

Aquino made the statement a day after it was announced that the task force would be abolished by President Macapagal.

The INQUIRER has obtained copies of confidential intelligence documents which were supposedly used to brief the President on the alleged involvement of former PAOCTF agents in various criminal activities under the leadership of Lacson.

An intelligence source said the damaging contents of the documents prompted the President to expedite the PAOCTF's abolition and to order the immediate activation of a replacement task force.

The documents pin several crimes on the PAOCTF apart from the Dacer murder. These include:

- The abduction of Edgar Bentain, who is believed responsible for leaking video clips showing then Vice President Estrada gambling at a casino.
- The abduction of PAOCTF agent Roger Brusas, which was allegedly connected to a multi-million illegal drug deal.
- The abduction and killings of two women relatives of the slain chieftain of the Red Scorpion Group (RSG) Alfredo "Joey" de Leon.
- The beheading of 10 suspected members of a notorious kidnapping group in Baguio City.
- The killing of another group of suspected kidnappers and bank robbers in Bulacan. The bodies of the victims were stuffed into several drums filled with cement.
- A number of disappearances of persons who had done "business" with the PAOCTF.

Intelligence brief

The documents include an intelligence brief that was supposedly the basis of the report sent to President Macapagal that prompted her to order the abolition of the PAOCTF.

Portions of the brief said that some former PAOCTF officials were allegedly involved in kidnap-for-ransom activities, car theft, money laundering, drug trafficking, and large-scale real estate fraud.

The paper also claimed that these former officials gained public sympathy and acceptance through the help of contacts in the media.

"While some of the operations were genuine, most of them were not. The modus operandi was for these people to contact different personalities in the underworld and let each organize a holdup/kidnap for ransom group. Through the contact (organizer), each group is provided targets. Once a group gains notoriety through its exploits, it is now subjected for (sic) neutralization," the intelligence brief said.

"The most common method of neutralization is to arrest all members of a group and kill them in a 'shootout' scenario. But before that, the kidnappers/robbers are thoroughly interrogated to determine where their loot is hidden. In the case of the Kuratong Baleleng rubout, it amounted to millions of dollars," the brief said.

New body

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona yesterday said Ms Macapagal was scheduled to sign an executive order abolishing the PAOCTF by today at the latest.

As of yesterday afternoon, presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz was "still putting the final touches on the executive order," Corona said.

Told that the President had earlier promised not to abolish the anti-crime group for at least a year, Corona said that the linking of PAOCTF men to major crimes could have hastened the abolition.

"There seem to be so many PAOCTF people involved in serious crimes and this fact has seriously impaired the credibility of the task force in combating crime," he said.

"You really have to disband that organization already because it's not effective anymore. People don't believe in it anymore," he said.

The new anti-crime body will be created under Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, current PAOCTF chief, and will be operating under the PNP chain of command, he said.

He said it would be different from the PAOCTF, which is under the Office of the President and outside of the PNP—and therefore "a shadow PNP."

Although Perez would not name the new witnesses, he confirmed that they were among those linked to the crime by suspect-witnesses Diloy and Lopez. ***With reports from Armand Nocum, Christine Avendaño, Philip Tubeza and Jerome Aning***

Wahid offers to host gov't-MILF talks

(From page A1)

government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

Kabalu said the MILF received Wahid's letter last week.

"We believe a similar communication from President Wahid was sent to the government," he said.

Indonesia also hosted the peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) from 1993 to 1996, when a peace pact was signed.

On the communist front, most of the leadership in exile of the National Democratic Front has returned to the country in anticipation of the resumption of peace talks with the government beginning April 27 in Oslo, Norway.

Reds at Isafp

Yesterday, two NDF leaders, chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni and his wife, Consuelo Ledesma, were welcomed into the very heart of the military's operations against dissidents like them—the headquarters of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The site of countless interrogations of communists and other enemies of the state, Jalandoni and Ledesma entered highly restricted Isafp headquarters to visit captured rebel leader Leoncio Pitao and hold a press conference.

Pitao, known as Commander Parago in the Medardo Arce Command of the New People's Army, was the leader of the band that kidnapped, and later released, Brig. Gen. Victor Obillo and Capt. Eduardo Montealto in the hinterlands of Davao in 1999.

Though afflicted with hepatitis and with both feet swollen, Pitao appeared in high spirits after his first-ever visit from such high-ranking officials of the NDF.

"I thought I'd never get to meet them," a smiling Pitao said. "I'm happy."

At the press conference also at Isafp headquarters, Jalandoni reiterated the NDF's demand that the government release some 200 political prisoners still being held throughout the country.

The Macapagal administration freed 42 jailed communist rebels early in its term as a "confidence-building measure" to lure the communists to the peace table.

Calling Pitao, who is facing 17 criminal charges, "a revolutionary leader fighting for the Filipino people," Jalandoni urged the government to respect an existing accord—the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law—which purportedly disallows the filing of common criminal charges against persons charged with political offenses.

Jalandoni also pointed to a March 9, 2001 joint statement signed by the government and the NDF in the Netherlands in which the government promised to take steps to facilitate the release of political prisoners.

Goodwill gesture

Jalandoni said the NDF showed goodwill when it released last April 6 Army Maj. Noel Buan whom it had held for two years in Mindoro.

"The NDF could have released Buan after the May elections. This was our gesture of goodwill, wouldn't it be good if the government reciprocated?" he said.

Jalandoni's visit to Isafp and Pitao was arranged by the human rights group Karapatan and approved by Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus.

Corpus himself is a former soldier who defected to the NPA following a daring raid on the armory of the Philippine Military Academy in 1970.

Corpus surrendered to the government in 1976 and was allowed to eventually return to military service. Corpus was not present during Jalandoni and Ledesma's visit.

Jalandoni is next scheduled to visit Donato Continente and Juanito Itaas, both of whom were convicted in the killing of American military adviser Col. James Rowe in Quezon City in 1989. The two are serving their sentences at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

The NDF claims the two are political prisoners since they killed Rowe because of their political beliefs. Besides, Jalandoni said, in October of this year, the two would have served 12 years in prison, the minimum penalty for their crime.

No letter yet

On Indonesian President Wahid's offer to the Macapagal administration to host the peace talks with the MILF, government peace panel chair Jesus Dureza told the INQUIRER the government had yet to receive Wahid's letter.

Indonesia chairs the Committee of the Six of the 56-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference, the pan-Islamic body that has been pushing for peace talks between the Philippine government and Moro rebels since the early '70s.

MILF spokesman Kabalu said that aside from Indonesia, Malaysia has signified its intention to host the peace talks.

"The final venue would be up to the peace panels to decide. For the MILF, we maintain that the peace talks be held on neutral ground," Kabalu said.

The formal peace talks will be held after the May elections but preliminary meetings between the two panels will be held before then to draft the talking points and to select the venue.

"We still have to decide when to announce the complete list of members of our negotiating panel. The panel's focus now is on the reconstitution of the different committees which will lay the groundwork for the formal negotiations" Kabalu said.

President Macapagal last Feb. 20 declared a suspension of offensive military operations (SOMO) against the MILF as another confidence-building measure, one week after she named the members of the government peace panel composed of five persons from Mindanao.

The MILF responded with a declaration of a unilateral ceasefire on April 3. The MILF's Central Committee on April 8 and 9, in turn, named its peace panel members.

MILF panel

Allan A. Nawal and Charlie C. Señase; with a report from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Senate bet claims own survey placed him in 7th place

(From page A1)

Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa ticket, insisted that his own survey was more systematically conducted than those done by the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia.

Tamano said his own survey even favored the opposition, with 10 of them landing in the top 13. But he refused to give details of the survey, even how it was conducted.

He said it was commissioned for his "personal" benefit and "not for political purposes."

"I don't believe in the (SWS and Pulse Asia) surveys. You can land in their surveys if you have money," Tamano said.

"But my personal survey showed I'm No. 7. If I am not in the top 13 then there is no reason why I should still run. But I am running in order to win," he added.

A doctor by profession, Tamano claims public recognition through his brother, the late Sen. Mamintal Tamano.

Although he has a house in Metro Manila, Tamano said his bailiwick is the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao comprising of four provinces—Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

"I have asked my relatives to go for the entire (opposition) ticket," he said.

Monumental fear

Two months into the campaign, Tamano, who is running for public office for the first time, said he is still trying to get over his "monumental fear of crowds."

He discovered that people liked to be entertained, so lately he had been joining a fellow candidate, former presidential adviser Jamby Madrigal, in singing during rallies.

"I adjusted out of survival. You either slide or go down," he said.

In his campaign speeches, Tamano always expresses gratitude to former President Joseph Estrada for including representatives from Mindanao in the ticket. He also condemns Estrada's ouster and tries, though unsuccessfully, to get the crowd to cheer for Estrada.

To make up for his lack of personal campaign machinery and paraphernalia, Tamano religiously joins all campaign sorties arranged by the LDP-PnM.

Another opposition candidate from Mindanao, former Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Reuben Canoy, said he could not even afford to travel with the ticket in its sorties outside Mindanao.

"I'm the poorest candidate (in the opposition ticket)," Canoy told the INQUIRER. "I can't afford to travel. I live in Cagayan de Oro City. When they have schedules, they tell me I have to fly to this or that place. But I can't afford to."

"We candidates from Mindanao are second-class citizens compared to our counterparts from Manila," he added.

'They will have . . .

(From page A1)

is located.

"We are ready to go and accompany our president even to jail if the police apprehend him," said Bonifacio, a resident of Pateros.

He and his colleagues in the Samahang Erap Movement have been holding the vigil since Holy Thursday to "guard" the Estrada residence amid reports that the embattled former leader and family members will be arrested soon.

Bonifacio said his group would stay until the day of Estrada's arrest. He said the demonstrators were optimistic that their numbers would reach five million before then.

But as of last night, the crowd had not grown at all.

Unlike the largely young crowd that unseated Estrada through Edsa II in January, most of the supporters of the beleaguered former leader seemed to be past 40. About two-thirds were women.

People Power III?

Despite their deplorable living conditions, around 10,000 residents of Barangay San Lorenzo Ruiz and nearby areas in Taytay, Rizal, yesterday also vowed to stage a massive protest action dubbed "People Power III" to prevent the arrest.

"*Kapag inaresto si Estrada, magkakaroon ng People Power III* (If Estrada is arrested, we will stage People Power III)," said businesswoman Merlyn Santos, 42.

The Estrada supporters in North Greenhills expressed hope that many others would flock to San Juan to join the vigil now that people have returned from Holy Week vacations.

Bonifacio also denied that the protesters were being paid by the Estrada camp.

"We have come here on our own. We just wanted to assure the president that we love him and we will stand by him no matter what," he said.

He complained that the demonstrators were going hungry because they were surviving on donated food.

"But we don't mind because we are happy to stand behind our president," he was quick to add.

The group has mobilized Estrada supporters from San Juan, Pateros and even from as far as Iriga City in Camarines Sur, to secure the Madison Avenue and Buchanan Avenue gates of North Greenhills.

'Not fair'

"*Hindi na makatarungan kung aarestuhin pa siya. Wala siyang ginawang masama* (It would not be fair if he were to be arrested. He didn't do anything wrong)," said Santos.

Santos is among the thousands of residents of the San Juan resettlement area in Taytay, a squatter community Estrada built in 1985.

Tenants of the unfinished tenements in the area endure the lack of potable water and electricity. Most of the medium rise buildings remain unfinished and lack toilets, doors, windows and roofs.

Despite this, residents threatened to storm Malacañang and other government offices if only to prevent Estrada's arrest.

"*Hindi dapat husgahan ng pamahalaan si Erap. Marami rin silang mali. Bakit nila pinag-iinitan si Erap* (The administration should not judge Estrada. It also has its mistakes. Why pick on him)?" Santos said.

"*Napakabait niya sa amin. Lalo lang namin siyang minamahal habang walang humpay siyang tinutuligsa* (He's been very good to us. We only love him more while he is being attacked relentlessly)."

Waiting for b-day

Eda Nicart, wife of barangay captain Eddie Nicart, said: "*Kung talagang dapat arestuhin si* Erap, *dapat hayaan muna siyang magdaos ng kaarawan niya sa April 19* (If Estrada has to be arrested, they should allow him to celebrate his birthday first)."

Estrada has celebrated his birthdays at the resettlement area since its inauguration in 1985.

The arrest order on Estrada shocked residents, as they were busy preparing for his birthday celebration there on Thursday.

"*Para sa mga kritiko ni Erap, bakit di na lang nila patayin si Erap kung 'yon ang ikaliligaya nila*? (Why don't Estrada's critics just kill him if that's what will make them happy)?" Santos said. ***With a report from Jerome Aning***

Estrada posts bail for graft

(From page A1)

arrived at the courthouse on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City in a seven-vehicle convoy.

Mobbed by journalists, the former President was flanked by former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito and children Jude, Jackie and San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

Assisting him were his lawyers Raymond Fortun and Cleofe Versola. Former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, Estrada's lead counsel in the impeachment trial, also showed up although he is barred from appearing in court for five years after retiring in 1998.

Estrada was indicted on April 4. His indictment came after the Supreme Court unanimously rejected Estrada's appeals of its ruling that stripped away his immunity from suit and declared he left office when he left Malacañang on Jan. 20 amid People Power II.

Estrada has denied any wrongdoing and says his rivals fabricated the charges.

Fingerprints taken

Estrada executed a certificate of voluntary surrender at the Office of the Court Sheriff and went up the five-story building to have his fingerprints taken at the Sandiganbayan's five divisions.

He and members of his family refused to give statements to the media throughout the whole exercise, which lasted for about an hour.

Earlier in the day, at 2:25 p.m., the court's 4th Division released two arrest orders for Estrada in connection with Criminal Case Nos. 26559 and 26564.

CC No. 26557 accuses him of graft on the basis of the allegations of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that Estrada pocketed P130 million in tobacco excise taxes.

He is accused along with Charlie "Atong" Ang and the latter's alleged employees, namely Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan and Delia Rajas.

The court also barred the five suspects from leaving the country.

CC No. 26564 cites Estrada for perjury for allegedly not declaring his true Statement of Assets and Liabilities for 1999.

The fourth division chaired by Associate Justice Narciso Nario with Rodolfo Palatao and Nicodemo Ferrer as members, asked Estrada to post P30,000 bail for the graft case and P10,000 for the perjury charge.

But Fortun explained that his client showed up yesterday to post bail for all the other graft charges all at once "so we can do it in one trip, so that we won't be as chaotic as this."

Receipts issued by the Sandiganbayan's cashier indicated that Estrada paid total bail of about P140,000 covering six criminal charges.

The amount is broken down as follows: P10,000 for CC No. 26564 (perjury); P10,000 for CC No. 26565 (illegal use of alias); P30,000 for CC No. 26559 (graft); P30,000 for CC No. 26560 (graft); P30,000 for CC No. 26562 (graft); and, P30,000 for CC No. 26561 (graft).

Seventh charge withdrawn

A seventh charge—violation of the Code of Conduct for Government Officials—was withdrawn late in the afternoon yesterday by the Ombudsman. The eighth charge is plunder.

Whether an arrest warrant may be issued in the plunder case has yet to be decided by the 3rd Division, which also handles CC No. 26563, the subject of the motion to withdraw filed by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The motion started by pointing to a "systematic and well-coordinated effort" by the Estrada camp to delay his trial, particularly on the plunder case.

Government prosecutors cited as evidence the motions made by the defense lawyers to have the case thrown back to the Office of the Ombudsman.

"While there's factual basis to hold the accused liable for the offense charged (CC No. 26563) it is the consensus of the special prosecution panel from the Office of the Ombudsman, Department of Justice, and Office of the Solicitor General, with the assent of the counsels for the private complainants, to withdraw the information in the instant case in order to eliminate wide avenues in the progress of the major charge of plunder."

It added that the withdrawal of the charge "would furthermore prevent the dissipation of the efforts and resources of the prosecution and allow for a more orderly, expeditious and efficient administration of justice."

Signing the motion were Desierto, Special Prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo and Prosecutor III Pelagio Apostol.

Saguisag savors moment

Obviously savoring the moment, Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag, who also showed up at the Sandiganbayan, said the motion only indicated the particular case "should not have even been filed."

"It's difficult to be an Office of the '*Urong-Sulong*' Ombudsman. The cases have just been filed . . . and yet one of them has already been dropped. This is not going to be the last one (case) that will be exposed in the days ahead as totally and utterly lacking in merit," Saguisag told reporters.

The cases filed against Estrada are expected to drag on for a "couple of months," making his arrest a less imminent possibility, said Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel said that this was because Estrada's lawyers could ask the Sandiganbayan to reinvestigate the charges that were filed against him before the Ombudsman.

Live coverage

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Ombudsman Desierto yesterday asked the Supreme court to allow live television coverage of the trial of Estrada at the Sandiganbayan.

Perez insisted on filing the petition in spite of an earlier statement of Sandiganbayan Presiding Officer Francis Garchitorena that he wanted to limit the number of journalists in the session hall during Estrada's trial on criminal cases.

Perez said he believed Estrada's trial "involves a matter of public concern and interest, or a matter over which the entire citizenry has the right to know, be informed and made aware of."

Stressing the people's right to know, the justice secretary added that this could be "best recognized, served and satisfied by allowing the live radio and television coverage of the concomitant court proceedings."

Perez said live coverage would be the people's best defense against "all unfounded notions or ill-perceived attempts on the part of the present dispensation to 'railroad' the instant criminal cases against Estrada."

Perez's petition recognized a previous en banc ruling of the Supreme Court prohibiting live radio and television coverage of the trial of the libel case filed by former President Corazon Aquino against the late journalist Luis Beltran in view of the "prejudice" it posed against the defendant. ***With reports from Armand Nocum, Christine Avendaño, Cathy Yamsuan and AFP***

Garcia: ₱120M for 34 NSAs

By June Navarro

COMMISSIONER Richie Garcia, head of the Philippine Sports Commission Southeast Asian Games Task Force, yesterday said the PSC has earmarked P120 million as budget for the 34 national sports associations this year.

Part of that budget, he bared, would be used to subsidize the preparation of the athletes bound for the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September.

Last week, PSC chair Carlos Tuason announced that P50 million would go to the country's SEAG participation, with P30 million of that to be spent for the actual games. The remaining P20 million will be used to purchase sports equipment.

Allowances of athletes and coaches and expenses for training and local foreign exposures will be included in the P120-million budget. The allocation is a carryover of last year's budget for the NSAs, according to Garcia.

"It will allow more elbow room for the NSAs to determine the most qualified athletes who will don the national colors," said Garcia. "Moreover, it will give developing athletes a chance to show their skills."

Garcia said the PSC veered away from the idea of supporting only athletes who met the bronze-medal criterion to have a wider scope of selection.

"Originally, only qualified athletes will be supported. But the problem is, what will happen to those who did not qualify?" said Garcia.

A case in point, he said, is table tennis where only one qualified for the biennial meet.

Already, the PSC-POC SEA Games Task Force has named 203 athletes for the Games, while 107 remain as potential nationals.

The joint PSC-POC Task Force has set July 30 as the deadline for the submission of entries.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Masters Series (Monaco), Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Worldcom Classic - The Heritage of Golf, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

City of Hope LPGA Classic, Final Round at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BASKETBALL: Houston Rockets vs Portland Trailblazers at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BOXING: Muhammad Ali - The Young Champion at 7:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

HOCKEY: NHL Conference Quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN

ICE SKATING: 2001 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championship Exhibition tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

FINALLY, A WINNER
Ralf Schumacher exults as he adds a prestigious laurel to the rich family collection of Formula One trophies after capturing his first career victory yesterday in the San Marino Grand Prix in Italy. The 25-year-old German drove his Williams-BMW car to an almost unchallenged triumph, earning the British team its first GP win since September 1997 and ending a 22-race winning streak by either Ferrari or McLaren drivers. Ralf, the younger brother of reigning world F-1 champion Michael Schumacher, also made auto racing history as it was the first time that two brothers have won F-1 Grands Prix. Schumacher clinched the prestigious win on his 70th GP start leading every lap of the 62-lap race. He beat David Coulthard by 4.3 seconds. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Iverson, Mutombo star as Sixers win

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson scored 27 points and Dikembe Mutombo added eight points and 16 rebounds as the Sixers beat the New York Knicks, 89-82, Sunday, snapping a two-game losing skid and defeating a playoff-bound team for just the fourth time in 13 games. Philadelphia had lost two straight, including a 24-point loss to Orlando, since clinching the top spot in the Eastern Conference last week. The Sixers are 14-11 since acquiring Mutombo on Feb. 22, but are 4-9 against playoff teams since the trade. The Knicks stayed one game behind the Miami Heat for third place in the East. **Complete Results:** Boston 95, New Jersey 88; Philadelphia 89, New York 82; Cleveland 106, Washington 98; Orlando 90, Miami 73; Indiana 93, Chicago 86; Minnesota 107, Utah 100; L.A. Lakers 105, Portland 100; Charlotte 99, Detroit 90; Dallas 107, Seattle 99, OT; Phoenix 88, Sacramento 86. *AP*

Senior golfers play April 19

THE MONTHLY seniors tournament of the Federation of Philippine Senior Golfers, Inc. headed by SP Malbarosa will be held on April 19 at the Veterans Golf Course along Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City. Tournament host will be the Veterans Senior Golfers Association now headed by Aramis Aguilar. Registration starts at 6 a.m. Ceremonial balls will be hit by SP Malbarosa, Frisco San Juan, president Emeritus of the federation, Admiral Brillante C. Ochoco and Aguilar.

Miñoza's nephew shines in Davao

ALLAN John Miñoza, nephew of local pro star Frankie, shot an 87 to tie Ariel Pariquet for the lead in Class B even as Peter Pineda took the upper hand in Class A at the start yesterday of the Mindanao eliminations of the national age-group championships at the newly opened Rancho Palos Verdes course in Davao. Miñoza, son of the semi-retired pro Raul, and Pariquet held a three-stroke lead over JP Marfori going into today's final 18 holes of the event. The top two players will earn the right to represent Mindanao in the national finals set to be held late this month in another Sta. Lucia course, the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

Cocker of the Year race resumes

THE FIERCE rivalry for United Cockers Association of the Philippines' Cocker of the Year 2001 race will be highlighted anew as the "10th Ucap/San Pedro GP Eagle 6-Cock Derby" unfolds today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 p.m. Sagupaan Super feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc. are derby sponsors. Hosting the event are last year's COTY winner Jet Fernando, Ramon Mencenares and Ting Ariosa. More than 45 fights are lined up today. The championship round is on April 19. On May 8 and May 10, Mario Villamor, Tito Reyes, Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez will tangle in another cockfest. For inquiries, call 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

'Sagupaan' starts airing Thursday

IBC Channel 13 presents Sagupaan, the much-sought after "tele-sabong" show of cockfight idol Patrick Antonio, on April 19 and 11:30 p.m. and every Thursday thereafter. The show commands a massive following since Antonio, a two-time Cocker of the Year winner and holder of local and international derby titles, shares tested and proven methods in training and conditioning of gamefowls. "The training and conditioning methods that are revealed in the Sagupaan TV program are actually being implemented in my gamefarms in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, and Negros Occidental. I'm inviting all the *sabungeros* to watch and see the techniques themselves," Antonio said. A segment of the show (co-sponsored by Novartis Animal Health), will feature preventive medicine, health maintenance and medication of gamefowls. The show will also feature local and imported breeds by popular breeders as well as personality profiles of ordinary cockfight aficionados, handlers, bet-takers and others whose hobbies or businesses are related in the gamefowl industry.

Boracay to host beach volley

THE SEMIFINALS and finals of the 5th Nestea Beach Volley University Challenge will be held April 21 to 22 in Boracay Island with eight teams competing.

Defending women's division champions Sheryl Tumayao and Jennifer Buhawe of San Sebastian College (SHARMO) head the field.

Expected to give them tough competition are provincial qualifiers from University of St. La Salle-Bacolod (Marketers Union), South Western University-Cebu, (ASSOC) and Foundation University 1 (PEHM).

The SSC-SHARMO and University of St. La Salle-Bacolod teams represented the country in the 2nd Nestea Beach Volley Asian Women's Championships last month.

In the men's division, competition has been narrowed down to two universities seeking their first Nestea Beach Volley University Challenge titles—University of San Jose Recoletos-Cebu (Athletics) 1 and 2 (Athletics), and Foundation University-Dumaguete 1 (FUASO) and 2 ((Osleta).

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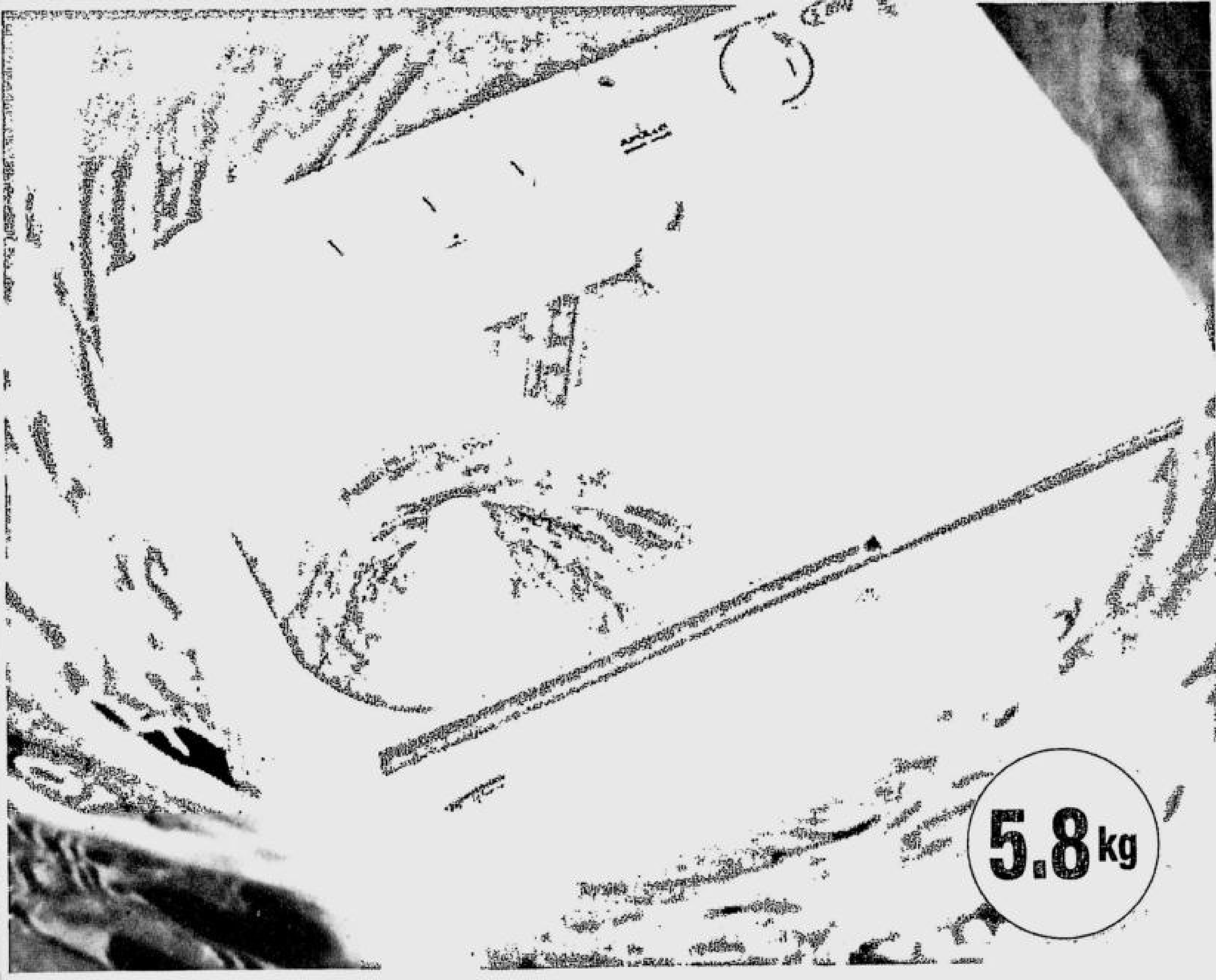

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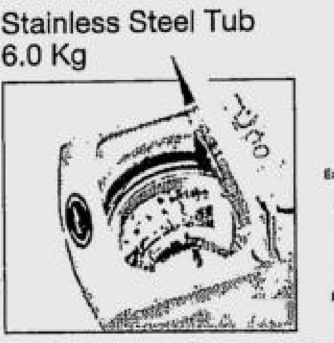

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Boston Marathon today

BOSTON—All David Morris has to show for being a one-time American record-holder in the marathon is a piece of paper. He doesn't have the record anymore and he still doesn't have a marathon victory. Morris hopes to change that today in his first appearance in the Boston Marathon. "I would like to run faster," Morris said, referring to the U.S. record of 2 hours, 9 minutes, 32 seconds, he ran in finishing fourth at the 1999 Chicago Marathon, his career best by nearly six minutes. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Lerio, Payla prevail

LIGHTFLY Danilo Lerio and flyweight Violito Payla beat their respective opponents Saturday and joined two other members of Team Caltex Philippines to the semifinal round of the 7th Roberto Balado Cup Boxing Tournament in Cuba. But featherweight Ramil Zambales and lightmiddle Junie Tizon lost their bouts against Cuban foes.

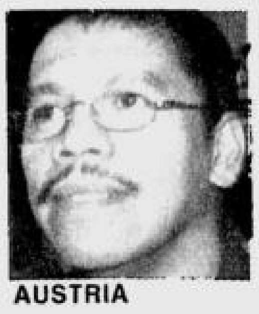
PBL CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Shark seeks 5th straight win vs Hapee

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	4	0
Ana Freezer	3	1
GIV	2	1
PharmaQuick	2	2
Ateneo	1	1
Montaña	1	2
Hapee	1	2
Welcoat	1	3
Osaka	0	3

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Montaña vs Ateneo-Pioneer
5:30 p.m.—Shark Energy Drink vs Hapee

BY DENNIS U. EROA


AUSTRIA

LEADER Shark Energy Drink shoots for its fifth straight win against struggling Hapee Toothpaste today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Power Boosters clash with the Sparklers at 5:30 p.m. after the 3:30 p.m. encounter between Montaña Pawnshop and Ateneo-Pioneer.

Satisfied with the performances of the Power Boosters, coach Leo Austria ordered a three-day break for his men starting Holy Wednesday.

"I can sense that the team is hungry," said Austria, who is looking for his second straight title after steering Shark to the Challenge Cup crown, during practice on Saturday.

The Sparklers are hoping to improve their 1-2 card. Hapee is troubled by the inconsistent play of UST's Cyrus Baguio, Nino Gelig and Alwyn Espiritu. New recruit Allan Salangsang is still trying to jell with his teammates.

Michael Robinson, Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan are again expected to lead the "Shark attack."

Montaña is also trying to arrest a two-game losing skid.

Unless they recover their bearings, the Jewels will be stretched to the limit by the Insurers, who will again lean on Enrico Villanueva, Andrew Cruz, Rich Alvarez, Rainier Sison and Edrick Ferrer.

Power playing Francis Zamora, Montaña's leading rebounder, Gilbert Lao and Mel Latoreno will have their hands full against the tall Ateneo-Pioneer frontline.

RP-Tanduay in Cebu City

THE PHILIPPINE Team and Tanduay Rhum are ready to play an exhibition game for charity in Cebu City—if the PBA board of governors would allow it.

Ramon Tuason, consultant and marketing manager of the RP Team that successfully defended its South East Asia Basketball Association men's championship recently, told the INQUIRER yesterday that Tanduay team owner Bong Tan was amenable to the proposal.

Tuason said he was asked by Tan to make the offer in writing to the PBA board.

According to Tuason, Cebu is an ideal venue for the game "due to the popularity of the MBA stalwarts and the Rhum Masters among the Cebuanos."

Tanduay starter Dondon Hontiveros formerly played for the Cebu Gems in the MBA. *Roy Luarca*

FIBL cagefest opens April 22

THE FILIPINO Indian Basketball League (FIBL) opens its third season on April 22 at the Makati Coliseum, with an expanded program that includes a junior division on top of the regular senior division.

Having just completed recently its junior basketball clinic supervised by PBL champion coaches Junnel Baculi and Leo Austria, FIBL Commissioner Dilip Budhrani has included two teams of Fil-Indian kids from 12 to 17 years old as part of the league's preparation for the future.

"With a strong junior division, it ensures the future of the league as there will be a continuous turn-over of talents practically every year," said Budhrani.

The two junior teams, the Delhi Dragons and the Bangalore Braves, will play a best of five series starting May 6 to complement the senior division which opens on April 22.

Defending champion Bombay Bombers face the Knights, the same team they beat last year en route to winning the FIBL championship, at 2:30 p.m. to be followed by the match between the Suns and Hoop It Up Kings at 4 p.m.

Soquino, Jopia netfest winners

SEVENTH seed Janji Soquino defeated Edgardo Banaag II, 6-0, 6-3, and No. 8 Julianito Jopia downed So Yamashita, 6-2, 6-0, yesterday to gain second-round berths in the boys' 16-under class of the Tru-flex National Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Soquino will next face Carlo Oca, a 7-6 (5), 6-4 winner over Rommel Canillas while Jopia will meet Jerry Huyo-a, who scored a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Jon Inri Grape.

Also advancing were Valjames Villanueva, who beat Elias Laron, 6-0, 6-2, and Davao City's Joseph Magbanua, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over Laurence Sola.

Earlier, third seed Juan Felipe Mayor outplayed Rogelio Reynoso, 6-1, 6-1; No. 5 Gerardo Narvaez outclassed Ed Michael Putiz, 6-0, 6-0; and No. 7 Russell Arcilla Jr. clobbered Abraham Bergado, 6-0, 6-2, to enter the boys' 12-under second-round in this tournament supported by Mondo, PLDT, PSC, Magnolia Fruit Drinks, Prince, Toby's and Viva Mineral Water.

In other matches, Carlos Pantua blanked Aljay Urmasa, 6-0, 6-0; James Carl Canete beat Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, 6-2, 6-3; and Bryan Lontoc rallied past Hommer Paulo Perez, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▩ Melito Glor Command owns to killing CPD policeman A16
▩ Manila Water seeks P1 raise A16

They intend to wipe out my whole family–prosecutor

By Alcuin Papa

"THEY'RE out to get me and my family."

This was how Manila prosecutor Domingo Orda described the threat to him and his family, which already claimed his son who died in an ambush on April 2 in Parañaque City.

"With the methods undertaken and the frequency of the attempts, it seems to me the ambushes are meant to wipe out my family and myself," an emotional Orda told the *Inquirer* in a phone interview recently.

Orda himself survived at least three attempts on his life, but he said he is more fearful now that he has learned his entire family are marked for death.

"I don't know how I can avoid this threat to our lives," Orda said. "It would have been better if they were just after me, but they have included my whole family."

Orda said he was "still at a loss" over the death of his son.

Orda, 55, did not identify outright the mastermind behind the attempts on his life, but he confirmed what Parañaque chief of police Supt. Ronald Estilles earlier revealed—that a Manila barangay captain engineered the ambuscades, including the one in which his son Francis was killed.

The prosecutor said the police at first suspected the killers had mistaken Francis for his father. But Orda said investigators later realized that it was Francis himself who was the real target of the ambush.

Two weeks ago, Parañaque police arrested Rolly Tonion and Jun Reyes Soriano at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila for the murder of Francis. Estiles later revealed that the two worked for Ligaya Santos, an official of Barangay 659 in Arroceros, Manila.

THEY INTEND/ A16

Woman down in the mouth, beaten up for refusing second round of oral sex

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER giving oral sex to a customer, an alleged prostitute was beaten on the head and allegedly robbed in Quezon City yesterday morning.

The woman, a 35-year-old resident of Muntinlupa, was crying when she went to the Kamuning police station yesterday and complained that the unidentified customer beat her up with his car's steering wheel lock and then took her earrings when she refused to perform oral sex on him a second time, police said.

She described the suspect as about 5-foot5, fair, of medium build, and driving a car with plate number TAS-415. She said he also did not pay her P700 "fee for her services," according to PO1 Rommel Merino of the Central Police District.

The woman said the man picked her up on Quezon Avenue about 2:15 a.m. after she agreed to oral sex for P700, Merino said. The man then drove her to a dark portion of Mother Ignacia Street, near the Camelot Hotel.

She said that after she finished performing oral sex on him, the man, who was allegedly drunk, asked her to "do it again," Merino said.

She said she agreed. But while she was doing it, she stopped and told the man she did not want to continue. She then asked for her P700 fee, she said.

But the man became upset and would not give her the money. He also ordered her to go on. This led to a heated argument until the man lost his temper and beat the woman on the head with his steering wheel lock, police said. He also threatened her and ordered her to surrender her earrings, which she did.

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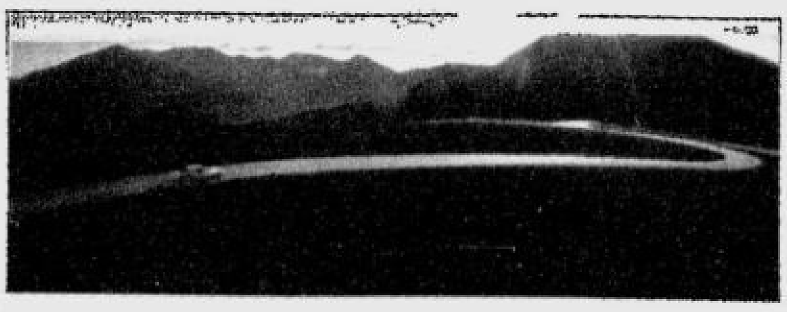

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Jeepney driver gets life term for rape

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CALOOCAN Regional Trial Court has sentenced to life imprisonment a jeepney driver for raping a 21-year-old woman who has the mental ability of a 10-year-old in September 2000.

Judge Bayani Rivera ruled that Galileo Pring, 40, was guilty of raping the woman inside his house in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan on Sept. 17.

Bayani also ordered Pring to pay his victim P50,000 in damages.

In her testimony, the woman said Pring raped her inside his house when she went there to fetch water from a well.

After she had filled her container with water, Pring forcibly undressed her, dragged her to a bed, and raped her at knifepoint, according to court records.

Although medical records showed that the victim had the mental ability of a 10-year-old, she was able to positively identify Pring as her rapist during her testimony.

Pring denied the charges and said the victim's mother merely coached the daughter to accuse him of rape so that he and his family would leave the house, which the woman's mother owned.

He said he could not have raped the woman since he was out playing *cara y cruz* when the alleged rape occurred.

But Judge Rivera gave more credence to the victim's "positive identification of the accused as the one who sexually abused her." The judge ruled that "the defense of denial put up by the accused cannot be sustained."

The judge also gave more credit to the victim's ability to describe her ordeal despite her mental ability.

Pring was brought to the Bureau of Corrections in Muntinlupa.

Laborer stabbed dead in QC

LABORER Joel R. Marano, 32, did not even get to light the cigarette he had just bought as two unidentified men snuffed out his life near a Quezon City *sari-sari* store on Maundy Thursday.

The three men stabbed Marano, of No. 101 Tandang Sora Avenue Barangay Banlat, Quezon City, three times, said investigator SPO1 Demosthenes Rebancos of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Marano had just bought cigarettes at the *sari-sari* store and was walking along Tandang Sora Avenue on his way home when the two men struck around 8:30 p.m., Rebancos said.

He said the two men approached Marano at the corner of Roque Drive and Tandang Sora.

"For still unknown reasons, the suspects stabbed Marano," Rebancos said.

He said the killing might have been planned because the suspects had a getaway vehicle, a passenger jeep that did not have license plates.

After the suspects fled, passersby brought Marano to the Quezon City General Hospital.

At 2:30 a.m. yesterday, the victim died, Rebancos said.

The victim's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

The investigator said police were trying to look for witnesses who might provide a description of the suspects. *Philip C. Tubeza, Sharon C. Jaylo*

Cripple accused of abusing maid

A CRIPPLED mechanic from Las Piñas City was accused of raping an 18-year-old maid on Sunday.

Accused was Daniel Ilao, 32, a welder-mechanic and a resident of Estillo Osa Building, San Antonio Valley 1, Sucat, Parañaque, according to Senior Insp. Marilyn Samarita of the Las Piñas Police Women's and Children's Desk.

Samarita said Ilao sneaked into the maid's room on Orbiter Street, Moonwalk, Talon V while she was sleeping at around 1:30 a.m. and raped her.

The maid said she was startled when she woke up to find Ilao in her room. She said he pulled out a fan knife and threatened to kill her if she made any noise.

After she was raped, she screamed for help until members of the barangay *tanod* responded and arrested the suspect.

Ilao is detained at the Las Piñas jail. *Alcuin Papa, with Roy Jolito and Jojo Arazas*

Phi Kappa Phi induction

ABOUT 200 students of the University of the Philippines who have distinguished themselves for scholarship the past four years will be inducted into the UP chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi on April 18 at 3 p.m.

Former Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino P. Feliciano, chair of the Appellate Board of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, will be the guest speaker at the rites at the UP Film Center in Diliman.

Dr. Sonia de Leon, outgoing Phi Kappa Phi president, will assist Feliciano in handing out certificates to the new members of the Phi Kappa Phi, an international honor society of university scholars.

Feliciano will also induct the new officers of the society: Prof. Carmelita C. Ramirez, president; Dr. Natalia M.L.M. Morales and Dr. Gilda C. Rivero, vice presidents; Dr. Aura Mattias, secretary; Prof. Adele Lucero, co-secretary; Prof. Susan S. Navarro, treasurer; Dr. Elvira S. Verano, public relations officer; and Prof. Eliseo de Guzman, auditor.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, April 17, 2001
Octave of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 2:36-41**
Gospel: **Jn 20:11-18**

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she bent down to look inside; she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and the other at the feet. They said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She answered, "Because they have taken my *Lord* and I don't know where they have put him."

As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognize him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and answered him, "*Lord*, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni"—which means, *Master.* Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me; you see I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them: I am ascending to my Father, who is your Father, to my God, who is your God."

So Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the *Lord*, and this is what he said to me."

Commentary

"I have seen the Lord!" This is what makes the difference. Because Mary of Magdala has seen the Lord, she, the first post-resurrection apostolic witness, has something to tell: Jesus in his humanity is now gloriously united with his Father who is also now our Father, with his God who is also now our God. Charlatans, even religious ones, abound in our world. But they do not last long, especially when faced with opposition and even failure. Only those who have seen the Lord can weather it all and continue going and telling what they have seen and heard.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (EXEMPTING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Insanity—Article 12 (1) of the Revised Penal Code provides that an insane person is exempt from criminal liability unless he has acted during a lucid interval. Under Article 80 of the Civil Code, the presumption is that every man is sane; anyone who pleads the exempting circumstance of insanity bears the burden of proving that he was completely deprived of reason when he committed the crime charged. Mere abnormality of his mental faculties does not exclude imputability. It is equally well-settled that proof of the accused-appellant's insanity must relate to the time preceding of coetaneous with the commission of the offense with which he is charged; the mental illness that could diminish his ill power should relate to the time immediately preceding or during the commission of the crime. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, People v. Ocfemia, G.R. No. 126135, October 25, 2000]

Digest by R.B.Vera

Melito Glor Command owns to killing CPD policeman

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NEW People's Army's (NPA) Melito Glor Command yesterday admitted responsibility for the killing of a Central Police District (CPD) senior officer in Quezon City on Holy Wednesday.

The provincial communist rebel unit based in Southern Tagalog meted out its brand of justice to Chief Insp. Marcelo Velasco, of the CPD mobile unit, for his alleged crimes and abusive behavior, according to a message sent by fax to press offices and signed by "Ka Bart."

Velasco was shot 13 times about 7 p.m. Wednesday in a vacant lot near his home in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Four suspects ganged up on him and pumped the first bullet into his head.

It was the first killing of a Metro Manila policeman that the Melito Glor Command owned.

The Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) used to be the hit squad for the communist movement in the metropolis. But it has since separated from the mainstream communist movement.

"We killed him because of the pleas of many families living in Tandang Sora," Ka Bart's statement said.

The slain policeman allegedly raped his maid and threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the rape. He was also accused of beating up a woman "until she was bald," as well as of terrorizing his neighbors by challenging them to a fight or firing his gun indiscriminately, and of land grabbing.

Velasco was also accused of protecting the illegal drug trade in his neighborhood and was held responsible for the frustrated killing of a civilian in Asingan, Pangasinan.

"(The Pangasinan shooting) was the reason for his transfer to Quezon City," according to the statement.

It said Velasco faced a lot of charges but the cases did not prosper "because of his close connections to high-ranking police and government officials."

The Melito Glor Command said it decided to try Velasco in its own courts to resolve the "people's complaints." It said it found Velasco guilty and had him killed on Wednesday, the statement said.

"The residents were relieved and happy that justice had been served," it said. "We thank the residents of Tandang Sora and we assure them and the country that we are prepared to serve them."

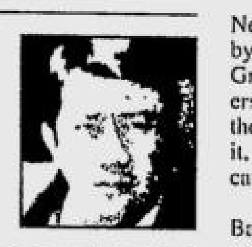
The CPD described Velasco as an "industrious officer when he was on duty."

But it declined to comment on the charges the NPA leveled against the slain officer. It only said these acts were allegedly committed while "Velasco was off-duty."

Why Erap's time was crime-free

On Target

Ramon Tulfo



THE INVOLVEMENT of some agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) in criminal activities, like kidnapping for ransom, confirmed what a lot of people had suspected all along—that the elite unit was itself operating like a criminal syndicate.

For, why would the number of cases of kidnapping and bank robbery go down during the Erap administration and then suddenly go up during President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's watch?

Were criminals:

- Afraid of crossing swords with PAOCTF?
- Afraid they would incur the ire of Philippine National Police Chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, concurrent PAOCTF chief?
- In cahoots with the elite unit?

The answer: All of the above.

* * *

Under the Erap administration, big criminal syndicates saw the futility of continuing with their operations because Lacson and his men would eventually catch up with them. And the moment they got caught, they would surely be "salvaged" (executed), like what happened to the band of bank robbers who belonged to a group called Kuratong Baleleng.

On the other hand, according to a PAOCTF insider, Lacson's subordinates knew that the PAOCTF could not keep the big criminal syndicates at bay for too long. After sometime, the syndicates would go back to their old ways in order to survive.

So, the PAOCTF did what the police have long been doing to criminals who have given up: Make allies out of them and use them against fellow criminals who have not yet been "neutralized."

* *

Making allies out of criminals who have been caught or have surrendered has long been a practice of the police. The practice operates on the principle that only a thief can catch a thief.

Successful crime-busters in the past, including the ones you admired, used stool pigeons, criminals who told on fellow criminals.

This practice is very practical because it works. But it has been abused by criminals who were used by the police or by the policemen who used the criminals

The best example is the Red Scorpion Group (RSG), a notorious kidnap-for-ransom syndicate. The RSG originally was a government group. It was composed of former members of the New People's Army which was used by the defunct Constabulary Security Group to pinpoint the hideouts of their erstwhile colleagues. Probably because the government could no longer support it, the RSG became a criminal syndicate.

Another example is the Kuratong Baleleng gang. The Kuratong Baleleng was an anti-communist group in Misamis Occidental which some military officers, now retired, used in fighting the NPAs. "Kuratong" evolved into a criminal syndicate.

* * *

Big kidnap-for-ransom and bank robbery groups did not operate during the time of President Erap because their activities were diverted toward other illegal pursuits.

For example, the Kuratong Baleleng gang was tacitly given the permission to engage in rice smuggling in Ozamiz City. The unsigned pact with the gang was made through Charlie "Atong" Ang, President Erap's crony.

The Kuratong Baleleng gang was responsible for big kidnapping and bank robbery cases during the time of President Ramos.

* * *

There is a big probability that the Erap administration, my sources in the police say, was involved in drugs.

"Mon, Erap could not have amassed that much wealth without getting involved in drugs," said a top police officer.

Do you remember that time, the police officer reminded me, when Jude Estrada, Erap's son, was linked to drug trafficking? This was the time when Erap was still the vice president and head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PACC).

Jude beat up a notorious drug pusher, a woman named Espanola, after she allegedly could not remit drug money to the vice president's son. The case was hushed up after Erap sent Jude to the United States where he learned how to fly a helicopter.

Erap showed annoyance whenever reporters asked him questions regarding the case. He dismissed the questions about Jude's involvement in drugs by shouting at reporters.

How easily people forget!

* *

Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, Ping Lacson's No. 2 man at PAOCTF, has been linked to the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

Some PAOCTF members have come out pointing to Aquino, the youngest ever police colonel, as the mastermind of the abduction and murder of Dacer and Corbito.

If those PAOCTF members are telling the truth about Aquino, then Lacson definitely had a hand in Dacer's abduction-murder.

Aquino was Lacson's alleged alter ego at PAOCTF.

Manila Water seeks P1 raise

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE AYALA-OWNED Manila Water Company Inc. (MWCI) has petitioned the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for a new basic water rate increase of P1 per cubic meter.

The MWSS Regulatory Office, the government body overseeing the operations of the private water companies since the sector's privatization, will review in the next two weeks the separate petitions filed by the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) and Manila Water of the Ayalas.

The MWCI and MWSI, as separate water operators in the east and west zones of Metro Manila, are allowed to ask for a yearly basic water rate adjustment specially if extraordinary events have occurred such as the peso depreciation.

This increase is known as Extraordinary Price Adjustment or EPA.

Maynilad Water has filed its intent to revise its basic water rate, which is now P6.58 per cubic meter, but it has not submitted a breakdown of how much it needs to increase its water tariffs.

The two concessionaires filed separate petitions for a basic rate adjustment to be effective January 2002.

According to MWCI group director for regulatory affairs and planning Virgilio C. Rivera Jr., aside from the peso depreciation another "extraordinary" event is the delay in the Umiray-Angat Transbasin Project under the MWSS.

Rivera explained that the MWSS through the Umiray-Angat project is supposed to install separate pipelines bordering the service areas of Maynilad and Manila Water.

"Since the completion of the UATP was a year delayed, we have continued with what we call cross-bordering flows to avoid any major disruptions (of service) to customers of Maynilad specially in the southern part of Manila," Rivera told the INQUIRER. "However, we are in a way also losing money because Maynilad is paying a minimum of P2 per cubic meter."

According to MWSS chief regulator Rex Tantiongco, the government body plans to end the cross-border flows between the two concessionaires this year.

In January, the MWSS Regulatory Office granted MWCI an increase of 19 centavos and MWSI 45 centavos per cubic meter.

"This is the only rate adjustment that we have allowed them to have," Tantiongco explained. "Their original rate petitions are bloated because they want to recover immediately their losses due to the currency fluctuations. But it is stipulated in the contract that they should recover their losses within 25 years."

The Macapagal administration recently turned down the petitions of Maynilad and Manila Water for an automatic currency rate adjustment (Cera).

Maynilad will go through a special negotiation with the MWSS before the International Chamber of Commerce next month.

Maynilad was formed by the Lopez conglomerate in a joint venture with the Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France.

In protest, Maynilad in April stopped paying for almost 90 percent of the $800-million debts of the MWSS to its foreign creditors, leaving the government to service the debts alone.

Fire hits Munti ballot box factory; Fresnedi says this won't hurt polls

By Alcuin Papa

FIRE yesterday morning hit a Muntinlupa metal works factory that makes ballot boxes, destroying about 200 ballot boxes to be used in the May 14 national and local elections.

However, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said the incident would not affect the conduct of the elections.

According to Supt. Danilo Ortiz, Muntinlupa City fire marshall, the fire struck the Trojan Marketing factory at 4200 National Road in Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa at 7:35 a.m. yesterday.

Ortiz said the plant's engineer, Romulus Constantino, told him the blaze originated from the washing area. Sparks from an air compressor ignited the gasoline which was being used to clean the finished ballot boxes, Ortiz said.

No casualties were reported, said Ortiz, who declared a "fire out" alarm at 8:35 a.m. He estimated damage to be around P5 million.

Ortiz said the 200 ballot boxes were the last batch to be delivered to the Commission on Elections.

Fresnedi, who visited the fire site, said the number of ballot boxes destroyed would not have any significant effect on the conduct of the elections.

"The factory was just one out of many that have been hired by the Comelec to produce ballot boxes," he explained. "Besides, that is just a small percentage of the hundreds of thousands of ballot boxes to be used in the elections. The fire should not affect the conduct of the elections at all."

He also denied the fire was part of a plot of any political party or group to cheat in the elections. Fresnedi is running for reelection as mayor under the Lakas-NUCD party.

Teacher, auditor nabbed for shooting drinking partner

A GRADE school teacher and a city official are in jail for allegedly shooting their drinking mate in Mandaluyong City on Easter Sunday.

Police identified the suspects as Madison Umandap Jr., 55, and Mandaluyong City auditor Ernesto Pido.

Umandap, of Nueve de Pebrero Street, Barangay Pleasant Hills, Mandaluyong, is a teacher at Caniogan Elementary School in Pasig City.

The victim, Diego Amansec, 34, of the same address, sustained a gunshot wound on the knee and was treated at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center.

Police said the three men were having a drink at about 4:45 p.m. when Umandap and Pido started to argue.

The argument got heated and resulted in a struggle over Umandap's .38 caliber pistol. But the gun suddenly went off, hitting Amansec on the knee.

A police team led by SPO2 Ricardo Gutierrez came and pacified Umandap and Pido, who allegedly tried to resist arrest.

They were later subdued and taken to the Mandaluyong police station. Police said they recovered the pistol from Umandap and live ammunition from Pido.

The two suspects are facing charges of frustrated homicide, violation of the Comelec gun ban and obstruction of justice. *Agnes E. Donato, Nickson Ryan Matias*

Two charged with gun ban violation

By Agnes E. Donato

TWO men are facing charges of robbery, illegal possession of firearms and violation of the Commission on Elections gun ban for allegedly holding up two salesmen in Mandaluyong City on Sunday.

Police identified the suspects as Frec Bersano, 21, of Welfareville Compound in Mandaluyong City, and Jerry Macanip, 19, of Batasan Heights in Quezon City, and the victims as Reynante Asimero and Gavino Ibal, both employees of Procter and Gamble Philippines.

Police said the robbery happened along the Martinez Highway around 3:15 p.m. Sunday. Asimero and Ibal were collecting payments from residents of Block 21 in the Welfareville Compound when Bersano and Macanip approached them.

Allegedly at gunpoint, Bersano and Macanip ordered Asimero and Ibal to hand over all the money they had collected, which amounted to about P5,500.

The two salesmen reported the robbery to the Mandaluyong police, which sent a team to go after the suspects.

Bersano and Macanip had apparently not gone far, as they were arrested shortly after the alleged robbery. Police said they found on the two suspects a .38 caliber pistol and five live bullets.

Both suspects are detained at the Mandaluyong police station. *With a report from Pamela Santos*

They . . .

(From page A15)

Estiles said Orda's wife Reynalda came into conflict with Santos over market stall rights in Arroceros.

The spat degenerated into an open feud between the two families, according to Estilles.

From then on, Prosecutor Orda has received death threats and survived three attempts on his life.

The Parañaque police chief also linked the two suspects to the ambush-killing of a former Western Police District policeman in Pasig City in March.

The *Inquirer* failed to reach Santos for comment. But she earlier went to Estilles' office and denied any involvement in the murder of Francis and the attempts on Orda's life.

Santos also tried to secure the release of Tonion and Soriano, whom she admitted worked for her.

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8	DOLBY SURROUND	SEDUCER
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA INA
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6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RUGRATS
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6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
7	DTS	THE CROW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
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6	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA... INA
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4	FINDING FORESTER (Phil. Premiere)	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	WEDDING PLANNER	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	RUGRATS IN PARIS	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SAVE THE LAST DANCE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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7	THE CROW
8	THEY NEST
9	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
10	ABAKADA INA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2 (DTS)	RUGRATS
3	ABAKADA INA

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ABAKADA INA
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

starmall Movies
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2	ABAKADA INA
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	THE CROW
2	SEDUCER
3	ABAKADA INA
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	GLADIATOR
7	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
8	RESERVE

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1
2
3
4
5
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

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2
3
4

Center Plaza Cinema
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1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	MS. CONGENIALITY

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1	
2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
3	

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A	DRACULA

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	CLOSED
3	CLOSED

GOTESCO CINEMA City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	SEDUCER
6	ABAKADA INA
7 (DTS)	RUGRATS
8 (SDDS)	AIR BUD 3
9 (DOLBY)	THE CROW

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

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3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ABAKADA INA
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
5	SEDUCER
6	THE CROW
7	SWEET NOVEMBER
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0063

1	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	ABAKADA INA
3	RESERVE
4	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
5	RUGRATS
6	SEDUCER
7	THE CROW
8	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ABAKADA INA
2	SEDUCER
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	GLADIATOR
6	RESERVE
7	RESERVE

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1	ABAKADA INA

Sampaguita
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3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	DEMON GATE

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1	
3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
3	RUGRATS
4	ABAKADA INA
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	ABAKADA INA
3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
4	PRODIGAL FIGHTER
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
6	ANG BOYPREND KONG PARI

Baclaran LRT Cinema
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1	ABAKADA... INA
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3	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

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1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	THEY NEST
3 (DTS)	ABAKADA INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	RUGRATS
3	THEY NEST
4	ABAKADA INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
3	RUGRATS
4	ABAKADA INA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	THEY NEST
2	ABAKADA INA
3	RUGRATS
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

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(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ABAKADA INA
2	RUGRATS
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	ABAKADA INA
2	RUGRATS
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

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3	RUGRATS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	ABAKADA INA
2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
3	DRACULA
4	

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CINEMAS TEL (049) 5314808

1	THEY NEST
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1	ABAKADA INA

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3	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

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3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

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4	RESERVE

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2	ABAKADA... INA
3	THEY NEST
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Manila Hotel restores grand days with Regine

WHEN the peso was stronger, concerts, with a lot of glitter and glamour, were usually held in the best and brightest hotels and clubs in Metro Manila.

The Manila Hotel is bringing back those glorious days as it presents a series of concerts monthly starting with "R-15" in the splendor of the Fiesta Pavilion grand ballroom.

"R-15" features Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez performing with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gerard Salonga, the show's musical director. Freddie Santos is stage director.

The concert takes place on April 21, the eve of Regine's birthday. More than a birthday celebration, the show marks Regine's 15 years in the music business.

"R-15" kicks off the Manila Hotel concert series. It will be followed by pop diva Kuh Ledesma in May, divine diva Zsa Zsa Padilla in June, and top band Side A in July, among others.

Tickets to "R-15," at P1,500 and P1,000, are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and The Manila Hotel. The show is for the benefit of Damas de las Filipinas. Official concert stations are Joey 92.3 FM and dwKC 93.9.

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6. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
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2. RUGRATS
3. DEMON GATE
4. MS. CONGENIALITY
5. QUILLS
6. TOTAL AIKIDO

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ABAKADA INA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	RUGRATS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE CROW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	AIR BUD 3
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ALIW (Re-issue)
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
MIRAMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA / BODY SHOT
ODEON	THE CROW
ODEON-2	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
ROBEN	ABAKADA INA
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER / REMEMBER THE TITANS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOO MUCH FLESH / VITAL PARTS
QUEZON-1	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
REMAR	ABAKADA... INA
REMAR-2	ALIW MATAMIS ANG LASON
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RUGRATS
CINEMA-2	SWEET NOVEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ABAKADA... INA
CINEMA-2	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-3	SEDUCER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	ALIW
CINEMA-8	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUGRATS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUGRATS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-12	AIR BUD 3
CINEMA-14	THE CROW
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-2	AIRBUD 3
CINEMA-3	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-4	THE CROW
CINEMA-5	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-6	SWEET NOVEMBER

Truefaith goes 'Live'

AFTER Truefaith released their retrospective greatest hits album "Memories Are Cheap: The Best Of Truefaith 1992-2000," it seemed easy to presume that the band wouldn't come up with anything new. But the band that created some of the most memorable OPM pop-rock songs in the past eight years has something new—its seventh album, "LIVE (Legalized Intense Vague Emotions)," from OctoArts EMI Music, to be released on April 25.

The carrier single is "Sumasarap ang Gising," which will be premiered today on simultaneous radio air play on Magic 89.9, 93.9 KCFM, Monster Radio RX 93.1, 99.5 RT and Campus Radio 97.1 dwLS and at 101.9 WRR, DM 95.5, 106.7 KOOL, LA 105.9 and WAVE 89.1, at 7:30 a.m.

"LIVE," produced by Larry Chua, showcases the sound that Truefaith has always wanted to do all these years—a mix of R&B, pop, jazz and Motown.

For this album, the band incorporated horns and strings that would further endear the group to its already large following as well as win it new listeners.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Ma-Yi theater company gets noticed in New York

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MA-YI, the small Fil-American theater company based in New York City, is on a roll this year, as indicated by a recent piece on the troupe by **Don Shewey** in the New York Times:

Shewey cites Ma-Yi as "one of New York's emerging theaters to watch"—a substantial endorsement, considering that there are literally hundreds of small theater groups trying to survive and get noticed in the Big Apple's Off-Broadway and its "Off-Off" and "Off-Off-Off" diminishing ripples.

The writer notes that the Joseph Papp Public Theater's production of **Jessica Hagedorn**'s play version of her novel "Dogeaters" may be "the most prominent showcase of Filipino talent in New York since 'Miss Saigon,' but the community of actors appearing in the play didn't spring up overnight."

He goes on to recall that Ma-Yi was founded 12 years ago and has had its share of ups and downs. It was only in 1996 that the company's work got relatively major notice, when Ma-Yi got the well-known Filipino set designer, **Loy Arcenas**, to direct **Ralph Peña**'s play, "Flipzoids."

Since Arcenas was an established name in New York theater, his directorial debut elicited the interest of many theater people, and Ma-Yi benefited from the extra exposure.

In 2000 and 2001, that exposure has been intensified even more. Chinese-Filipino **Han Ong**'s play, "Middle Finger," opened Ma-Yi's season last September and is praised by Shewey as "a tough-minded portrait of the emotional and sexual torments facing two Filipino-American boys in a Roman Catholic school."

Next month, Arcenas will direct Ong's new play, "The Watcher," in Shewey's description "a noir-esque excursion into pre-Disney Times Square." It topbills veteran actress **Ching Valdes-Aran**, who is described as "one of the hardest-working actors in New York."

Last year alone, she acted on Broadway in "The Wild Party," in Central Park in "Julius Caesar," and in "The House of Bernarda Alba," "Middle Finger" and "Dogeaters." She has won an Obie (Off-Broadway) award for her performance in "Flipzoids."

All of these developments indicate that Ma-Yi and its talents are slowly but surely coming into their own. Hopes are high that they can come to Manila with one or two of their productions sometime this year, so local theater people and play lovers can better appreciate how much they've progressed.

To us, one of the best things about Ma-Yi's work is the fact that it provides Filipinos with a non-Broadway view of making it in the-ater abroad.

All too often, local theater talents try their luck abroad with the goal in mind of making it "on Broadway." But Ma-Yi shows that it's even better to succeed in Fil-American or Asian-American theater, without having to try to transform yourself into the *Kano* theater talent you can't possibly become.

Feedback

CONCLUSION of **Jiggs Labrador**'s notes on ABS-CBN's programs, as viewed from the perspective of a Filipino in the States:

"With regard to the network's new programs, 'Arriba Arriba' is really entertaining, much better than 'Labs Ko si Babe.'

"The worst sitcoms are 'Puwedeng-Puwede' and 'Home Along Da Riles.' **Dolphy** deserves a better showcase, like 'The Bill Cosby Show.' Or perhaps, ABS-CBN could consider reviving 'John en Marsha,' since most of its original cast members (including **Dely Atay-Atayan**) are still around.

"The defunct 'Oki Doki Doc' was funny. Perhaps 'Puwedeng-Puwede' could be salvaged if 'Oki's' writers and director would handle the show.

"I hope ABS-CBN management is open to viewers' reactions, especially the views of us Filipinos abroad, who pay subscription fees in order to watch their programs."

Vandolph no-show in love child's baptism

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

IN ONE of my previous columns, I wrote a blind item about a child star who has a lovechild with a 16-year-old *colegiala*. Since it's a touchy matter, I decided to keep secret the identity of the people involved. But since the family of the *colegiala* gave me the go-signal to spill the beans, here I go.

I want to stress that the girl's family has opted to come out in the open not because they're after financial support or public sympathy. It's just that they can't get past the cordon sanitaire around the actor.

I'm referring to **Vandolph Quizon**. The girl's family tried calling Vandolph's relatives to ask Vandolph to sign the child's birth certificate, but their efforts were all in vain.

If it's any consolation, his nephew **Boy2 Quizon** has been very supportive since Day One. How ironical that the nephew seems to be more mature and concerned than the uncle. Boy2 was the one who introduced Vandolph to the girl, who was his classmate. So it was no surprise to see him during the baptism of Vandolph and the girl's love child **Gabrielle Vaughn Alyssa Magbanua Avante (Gabby)** on April 8 in Parañaque. Boy2 came with his girlfriend **Danica Sotto**.

I cornered him and my heart really bled for him. It's no joke to be caught in the crossfire especially when it concerns your family and close friends. I don't want to add to the burden of Boy2 and I respect his wish not to print anything he told me.

Suffice it to say that he was at the baptism not to represent Vandolph but because the girl is like a sister to him. You can't help but admire Boy2 for being man enough to stand by his friend, even when he's young, younger even than Vandolph.

Maybe Vandolph can learn a few things from him. Boy2's actions ought to reassure **Dina Bonnevie** and **Vic Sotto** that he will take care of Danica, their *unica hija*.

The young mom is one tough girl. Credit goes to her Born-Again Christian family who backs her up all the way. Says her mother: "I have forgiven Vandolph for not fulfilling his promise to do what is required of him. I just lifted everything up to the Lord. I just hope he signs the birth certificate. That's all. I believe what they say about Dolphy having a good heart so I'd like to think that somehow Vandolph has a little of his dad in him.

"*Bata pa kasi siya*. Maybe when he grows older, he'll realize things."

After the baptism (Boy2 and I were godparents along with the young mom's other friends), I told the girl: "Your daughter looks like you!" She smiled and said, "'*Buti na lang*!"

To my cute *hijada* Gabrielle: It's everyone's birthright to be cared for by a father. But in the father's absence, our Father above will find ways and means to make up for it. Your mom, *Lola* Bing, *Lolo* Roland and the entire clan are gifts you were born with.

Pinay singer in UK

I want to share this e-mail from one of my readers.

"Hello Dolly!

"I just wanted to share the news that **Myleene Klass**, a member of the No. 1 pop group Hearsay here in the UK, can be added to the roster of successful artists of Filipino descent. Myleene's mother **Magdalena** is a Filipino-Chinese who married an Austrian and settled in England.

"Hearsay is a new pop group with five singers (three girls, two guys) who were selected from over 3000 candidates. The auditioning, selection and rehearsal of the candidates were chronicled in a weekly TV show called 'Popstars,' which got record ratings in the ITV Channel here in the UK.

"Their debut single, 'Pure and Simple,' has been No. 1 in the UK charts for the past two weeks, and there are indications that their album will also go to No. 1 simultaneously, which is a first in UK music charts history.

"The official Hearsay website is www.popstarsonline.net.

"Best regards, Dr. **Cito Maramba**."

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

A Teens, Sweden's next biggest export

AFTER Abba, another Swedish group is in the world's spotlight again—A Teens.

The group evolved as one of Europe's biggest teen bands with the immense success of its debut album, Abba Generation.

Abba Teens has received several international awards, broken sales records and toured with pop giants N' Sync and Britney Spears.

The group's "Upside Down" from their sophomore album, "Teen Spirit," on MCA Universal, is on the verge of becoming an international hit.

The members of A Teen describe their carrier single as a "simple and happy pop song with very positive message to fans.

"We didn't want to make the mistake of doing an album that was too mature," says A Teens member Amit. "We know that many of our fans are young, and so are we. We want them to listen to a happy, upbeat and positive album. In our new album we kept some parts of the 'old' but at the same we showed our progress as a band."

A Teens is composed of Marie Serneholt, 17; Amit Paul, 17; Sara Lumholdt, 16; and Dhani Lennevald, 16.

With Abba Generation, the group toured Europe and later on the United States and Asia.

A Teens was awarded a European platinum award for their album's 1 million sales in Europe. They also won the Viva Music Award for Best International Newcomer, besting Blink 182 and Christina Aguilera.

A TEENS

I AM LOST IN
HONG
KONG

DOLPHY and Zsa Zsa Padilla

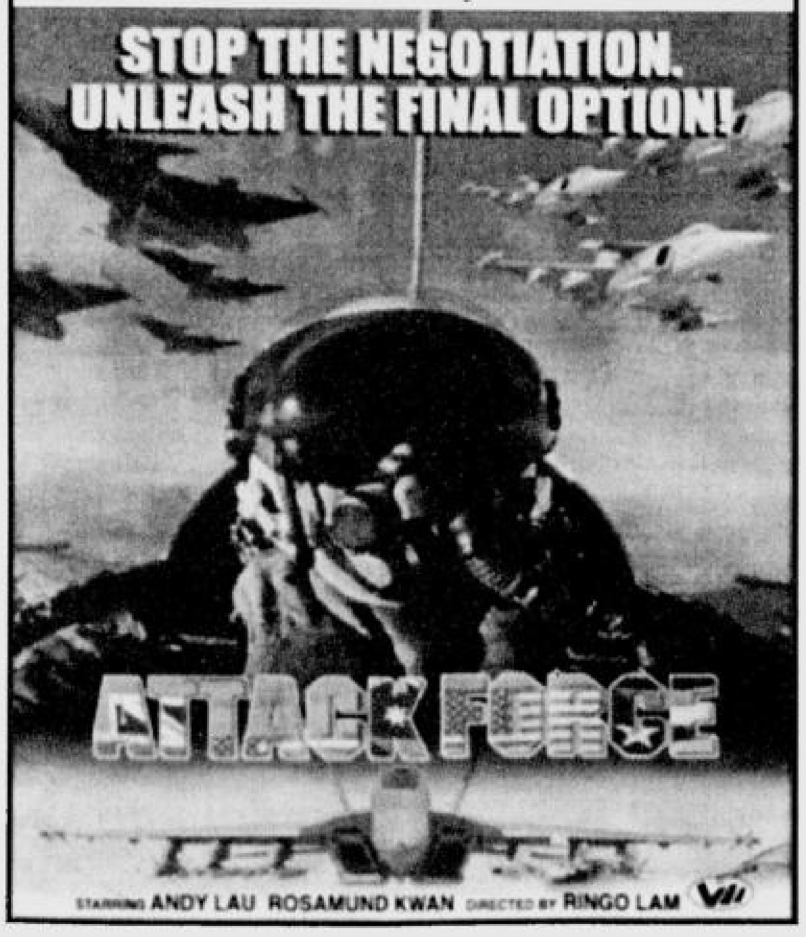
'Home Along' in Hong Kong

THE HIT sitcom "Home Along Da Riles" recently flew to Hong Kong to film its summer-special episode, which will be aired on Thursday, April 19. The special stars comedy King Dolphy, Nova Villa, Ces Quesada, Smokey Manoloto, Angela Velez and Boy2 Quizon. Special guests is Ms Zsa Zsa Padilla.

With the assistance of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the cast and crew were treated to a filming tour of various family-themed attractions in the former British colony.

Dolphy and Zsa Zsa strolled in Stanley Market, one of Hong Kong's best loved attractions where one can find a wide range of clothing, porcelain, handicraft items and souvenirs.

OPENS FRIDAY, APRIL 20!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CHOCOLAT - P 13
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

AIR BUD 3 - G
11:35, 1:35, 3:35, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

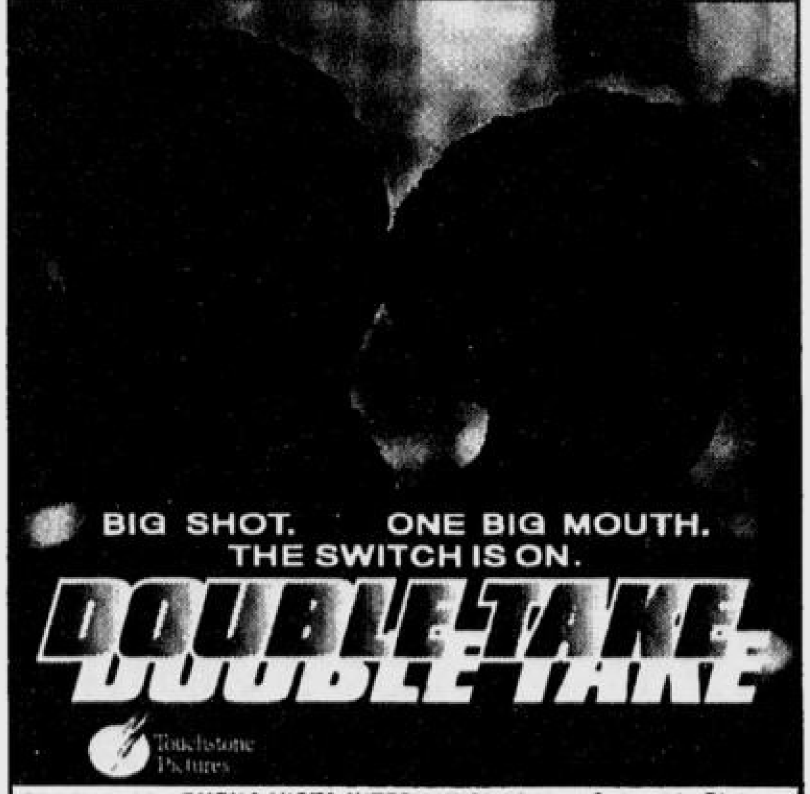
RUGRATS IN PARIS - G
11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

THE CROW - R 18
1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

CROUCHING TIGER - P13
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30

SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult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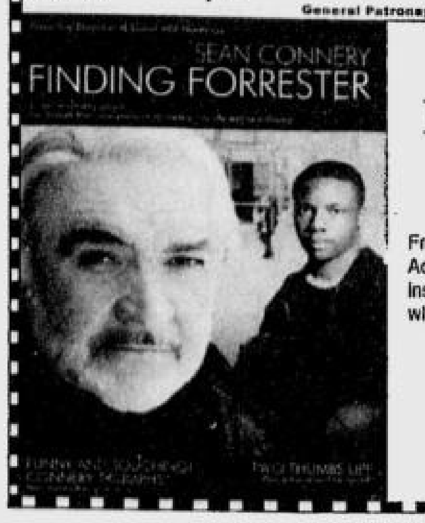

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Director of Good Will Hunting
FINDING FORRESTER
starring
SEAN CONNERY
From Academy Award nominated director Gus Van Sant and starring Academy Award winning actor Sean Connery, Finding Forrester is an inspirational drama about a bright black student on a basketball scholarship who meets a reclusive novelist who encourages him to follow his dream of becoming a writer.
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@ Berlin International Film Festival 2001
Best Male Newcomer (Rob Brown)
@ Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards 2000

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91-day T-bill yield rises to 10.027%

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill rates rose for the third consecutive week yesterday, pushing the government's benchmark borrowing rate back to double-digit level as financial markets feared the national government would be aggressively borrowing from the private sector to finance a gaping budget deficit.

The Bureau of Treasury also rejected all bids for the 182- and 364-day treasury bills that it had perceived as unreasonable.

What could further cause restlessness in the market is a statement from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that it may keep interest rates steady even if the US Federal Reserve cuts its short-term rates some more.

Yield of the 91-day treasury bill rate or the benchmark borrowing rate of the government went up 6.8 basis points to 10.027 percent following a short-lived dip into the single-digit zone.

Longer tenor instruments like the six-month and one-year bills remained at 11.005 percent and 11.638 percent, respectively.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government will consistently reject unreasonable bids and will not give in to a market that anticipates the government is pressed for cash.

He said he expected treasury bill yields to go down by about 10 basis points next week.

"We have enough funds. We have raised cash from the tap facility last month in preparation for rejection when rates are unreasonable as we are seeing right now," Edeza said.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the increase in the 91-day rate was a normal correction. "We will probably leave overnight rates alone for now," he said.

The central bank chief explained the market could have factored in the treasury bill bids a possibility that the BSP would raise interest rates to arrest the peso's weakness despite assurances it would not use its key policy rates to combat a currency weakness caused by regional factors.

Buenaventura said the US Fed was expected to slash interest rates anew by 25 to 50 basis points in its May 15 meeting.

"This will give us flexibility to keep our rates flat or even lower it," the central bank governor said. Bank analysts interpreted Buenaventura's statement as a signal that the BSP was no longer keen on bringing down interest rates even if the Fed cuts its own rates next month.

A securities dealer from a foreign bank pointed out that the market was spooked by the announcement of the government last Wednesday that it had sustained a deficit of P38.913 billion as of end-March, or 79 percent more compared to a P21.686-billion deficit in the first quarter last year.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, however, pointed out that the deficit in the first quarter was 25 percent lower than the programmed budget gap of P48.552 billion.

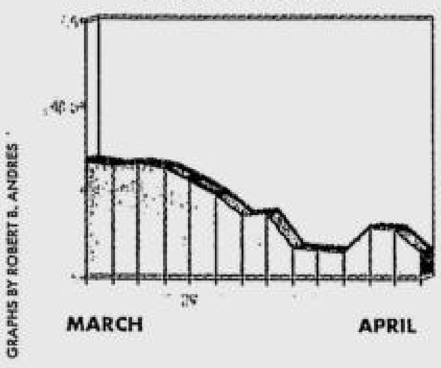
Total revenues amounted to P117.246 billion or P8.738 billion less than the target. The shortfall in earnings was offset by lower expenditures of P156.159 billion versus a programmed spending of P174.536 billion in the first quarter.

Of the total earnings in the first three months of the year, the Bureau of Internal Revenue accounted for P84.434 billion although it still missed the target by P8.95 billion.

"The market should not worry about the P38 billion (deficit) because expenditures are lower. They should not be worried that the government may need higher financing," Edeza assured.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

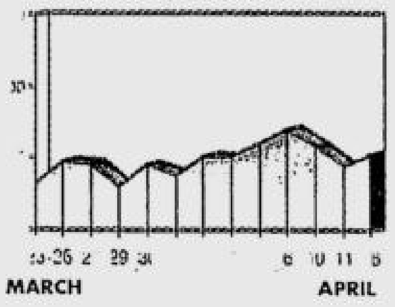
P50.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 16, 2001

¥124.62 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.62 as of 5 p.m., April 16, 2001

GOLD:$257.40/257.90
per ounce Hong Kong, April 11, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 0.6%



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.6 percent higher yesterday as foreign investors picked up selected bargains.

"Investors are slowly coming into the market but buying is still selective so trading is subdued," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities Corp.

"Foreign brokers were seen accumulating some selected issues last week and it seems they were not done with it (yesterday)," Mercantile Securities trader Warren Chua said.

However, with first quarter results still to be released and many investors waiting for the May elections before re-entering the market, turnover remained extremely thin, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 8.58 points to 1,453.84. Turnover fell to 195 million shares worth P236 million compared to 230 million shares worth P440 million last Wednesday, the last trading day of the previous week.

Warren Chua of Mercantile Securities Corp. said investors are waiting for signals from the United States. *AFP, Reuters*

AUTO SECTOR

Labor woes alarm gov't

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENTS of trade and industry and of labor and employment have formed a quick-response team to solve a brewing labor crisis gripping the country's local automotive industry.

This was disclosed by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II who warned that the festering problems in the labor sector would drive away foreign investors looking to put up a regional base to serve the Asean Free Trade Area starting 2003.

Roxas said the special DTI-DOLE committee was formed to help major corporations expedite the resolution of their labor woes. "In many instances, labor problems worsen because of slow action from concerned agencies We hope to address this with the new committee."

The formation of the quick-response team was approved during the series of meetings between DTI and DOLE officials with labor and management representatives of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., which had to shut down its Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and Bicutan plants for nearly two weeks when its union staged a strike to sympathize with workers sacked and suspended by management.

Roxas said that a labor crisis was brewing not only in Toyota but also in assembly plants of other Japanese assemblers—Honda Cars Philippines Inc., Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. and Nissan Motors Philippines Inc. He said that if left to fester, these labor problems could have dire effects on the Philippines' strategic position in Afta.

"Most multinational corporations (MNCs) are adopting the so-called complementation strategy in Asean where they will produce in one country a particular model to serve the entire region when Afta takes effect. If production in one country is jeopardized, their entire sales effort in the region is jeopardized," Roxas said. "This is why it is easier for MNCs' head office to go to countries with a more cordial labor sector rather than risk their production in a potential hotspot."

He said there was "greater pressure" on host countries to provide a hospitable environment "because capital is very mobile and if this (labor problem) worsens, we will lose jobs."

"When the country is perceived to have an agitated labor environment, it diminishes our opportunity to receive these orders. We need to find imaginative solutions to address the needs of our workers without jeopardizing our opportunity to attract more jobs into the country," Roxas said.

Palawan-Sabah gas pipeline for Malampaya eyed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. is expecting officials from Petronas of Malaysia for preliminary talks on a proposed pipeline that would link Palawan and Sabah.

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said officials from Malaysia's state-run oil firm are due next week or early in May for the initial talks on building an offshore pipeline connecting gas fields in the two countries.

Bomasang said the pipeline project is part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' efforts to set up a trans-Asean gas pipeline network.

The network will link the natural gas initiatives of Asean members.

"The fact that we have the Malampaya-to-Luzon pipeline enhances the feasibility of hav-

PALAWAN/ B4

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TODAY'S column is sponsored by the word "plunder" and the numbers "13" and "zero." All is just fine. The word "plunder" dominates our lives nowadays, while the numbers "13" and "zero" bother us in our sleep. You know—as nightmares!

Anyway, as everybody knows, except perhaps some newsreaders running for public office, the word "plunder" comes from the German "plundern," meaning "no sex for life." In only about 50,000 years, the meaning evolved to "death penalty."

But seriously now, to many of us, all those legal minds in this cute administration of Glorinetta can do whatever they want, as long as they file in court several thousands of cases of "plunder" against the man named Band... Wrist Band. That's all we care, period.

People say it's the only way to keep him in jail, provided of course this cute administration gathers up the courage to arrest him, to start with. Then we can pay attention to our problems. We just have to stop being derailed by the sex maniac. Oops!

* * *

BUT, it seems to me, the much-publicized arrest of Wrist Band is now a big political issue. How will it affect the election chances of: 1) this cute administration's coalition, and 2) the opposition? In other words, how will "plunder" lead to "13-0?"

Somebody big in the camp of Wrist Band boasts that his arrest makes him the . . . well, "underdog." The mere mention of his "arrest," according to that cow, or bull, as the case may be, gives political strategists of the coalition a little cute cardiac arrest.

Well, Wrist Band can never take on the image of the underdog. He is just a "dog," period. As for being "under," I just don't know how he conducts himself in his many amorous affairs—legal or otherwise.

Whatever its cost, justice must be served. There is no need for some voodoo political analysis here. As it is, we seem to be lost in the twirl of political wizardry. We forget to ask ourselves this simple question: But what does justice require of us?

Whether it is good or it is bad for this cute administration, politically, is not the issue here. The hell with politics! If the arrest of Wrist Band is the right thing to do, well and good. It is the right thing to do. Never mind if Ate Vi or Shawie don't get the votes.

* * *

FOR that's the whole point—justice! Some 15 years ago, you see, we also cried for justice against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who conveniently died before he could be tried and fried for a single freaking case. So what did we do?

Well, for starters, some political hangers-on simply took hold of some big corporations which were sequestered on suspicion of being part of the "ill-gotten wealth" of the Marcos family, their friends, plus the families of their friends

By way of proof, just to show how ill the wealth in those corporations has been gotten, political hangers-on proceeded to take control of the businesses during the next 15 years under four different presidents

I don't know, but maybe that was their way of righting a wrong. In 1986, all right, during the time of Tita Cory, nobody could question such a wonderful kind of justice. It was a revolutionary government, forgodsakes

But things were a little different after we decided to bring back order. We even made the 1987 Constitution. This little sheet even had a specific provision on those sequestered ill-gotten wealth. It ordered the government one thing. And that is, prove it!

* * *

AGAIN, by way of proof, it took four different administrations more than 15 years to refrain from producing a single piece of evidence before the courts in any single one of those hundreds of ill-gotten wealth cases.

Perhaps the evidence was hijacked while it was in a car on the way to court, thus disappearing without a trace. Nobody was arrested, and certainly nobody was jailed. And all along, political hangers-on sacrificed a lot by enjoying control of those companies.

Today, for example, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo follows such a tradition of self-sacrifice by insisting that, with the change in administration, political hangers-on take over San Miguel and the bank known as UCPB. Why? For good management. *Daw*!

Let me see what good of sacrifice they did for the bank. In only three years, from 1995 to 1997, the bank doubled its loan portfolio from P30 to P60 billion. As expected, a lot of the loans turned sour. You know—that kind of good management!

* * *

IN the 1980s, before sacrifices were made by whoever got hold of the bank in every change of administration, UCPB had the biggest capital in the country. Today, after 15 years of those so-called sacrifices, it has been overtaken by some unknown rural banks.

Not only that, from being a conservative yet highly profitable bank only 15 years ago, UCPB posted a loss for the first time ever last year. Its president, Lorenzo Tan, a professional who was pirated from Citibank in the United States, blamed it on bad loans.

Unfortunately, to cope up with stiff competition in banking these days, UCPB must raise its capital. It just cannot do that, thanks to the issue on its ownership, which has been hanging for the past 15 years.

The bank could not do anything. It could not go to the capital markets, which all the other banks did, except perhaps the Rural Bank of Mayaoyao. Really, UCPB's hands were tied tighter than Manong Johnny's fists during a campaign.

* * *

YET, with all those problems, the banks could afford to pay its directors and officers handsomely. In other words, because the bank recorded—in advance, mind you—profits from its aggressive lending, the political hangers-on enjoyed a little bonanza.

From 1986 to 1998, just the allowances and per diems of the bank directors reached almost P400 million. And those were the same people who claimed they represented in the bank its actual owner, which was none other than the government.

BREAKTIME/B4

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Offering Period
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Issue Date
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3. **Who can purchase RTBs?**
   Any investor who has at least P5,000.00 can purchase RTBs. An investor can invest up to a maximum of P2,000,000.00.
4. **How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?**
   The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment. For corporations, copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures and the payment are required.
5. **After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?**
   Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.
6. **What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?**
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7. **How much will an investor gain if he invests in RTBs?**
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Gross Quarterly Coupon	162.50
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End Quarterly Coupon	P130.00

(*Assumed rate for purposes of illustration only.)

8. **What is an investor's proof of ownership?**
   The Investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).
9. **Where can an investor purchase RTBs?**
   An investor can purchase RTBs from the following Underwriters or any of their branches or business centers.

SAN MIGUEL DEAL

Purefoods shelves ₱1.4-B factory

By Doris C. Dumlao

PURE Foods Corp., the food manufacturing unit of the Ayala group, has shelved plans to build a P1.4-billion manufacturing plant pending the finalization of its acquisition by food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

In a briefing after a stockholders' meeting yesterday, Purefoods president Renato Montemayor said the company had mapped out some major capital expenditures since last year, but all these would be put on hold because of the deal with San Miguel.

Among the major expansion projects deferred by Purefoods was the planned establishment of a new manufacturing facility in Alaminos, Pangasinan, which was intended to jack up the company's productive capacity by 60 metric tons each year.

He said the company would likewise have to shelve the expansion plans for Purefoods Hormel Co. Inc., a joint venture with the US-based Hormel Foods group, currently the dominant player in the hotdog business.

"We have to let the new board decide whether they want to continue the plans," Montemayor said.

San Miguel is currently doing the due diligence audit on Purefoods that would pave the way for the buyout of the Ayalas' 93.26-percent stake in the company. But the deal excludes the operations of Philking Restaurants Development Corp., the Philippine franchise holder of the Burger King chain.

Ayala Corp. consultant Delfin Lazaro said San Miguel was likely to get more than a 95-percent stake in the company once it buys out the Ayalas' stake and complies with the tender offer requirement.

"San Miguel, being a very good company, can enhance the future of Purefoods. Being a market leader, they can help the company attain better and better results," he said.

Lazaro said the deal with San Miguel was unlikely to be wrapped up by April. He said the valuation for the deal would be affected by the due diligence.

San Miguel, for its part, offered earlier P7 billion for the stake after conducting a due diligence audit on Purefoods, but the Ayalas wanted no less than P10 billion.

A memorandum of agreement has already been signed, however, giving San Miguel the exclusive right to negotiate for the acquisition of the Ayalas' stake in Purefoods.

Purefoods is in the business of food processing, manufacturing and distribution. It diversified from a meat processing company into a variety of food businesses with its expansion to poultry in the 1980s, its venture into the flour business in 1992 and its acquisition of the local Burger King franchise.

For the first quarter, Purefoods chief financial officer Rosa Santos estimated that the company had chalked up double-digit growth compared to the same period last year.

"It was generally better than expected, due to higher margins in poultry and flour," she said.

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CANYON WOODS	-	Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	350,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	500,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000*	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	120,000*	92,500/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	280,000	300,000/420,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	395,000*	405,000/525,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C (with lot)*	395,000	400,000/2,000,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000	4,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	850,000/900,000*	-
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000	180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/500,000**	330,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	130,000	150,000/Please call*
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RIVIERA A/B*	245,000	280,000/420,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
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Equitable PCI retires two-thirds of BSP debt

By Doris C. Dumlao

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. is aggressively retiring P30 billion in debts it owes the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to give its existing shareholders a firmer ownership control.

Well-placed banking sources said Equitable PCI Bank has so far settled around P20 billion of the P30-billion emergency assistance provided by the central bank last year.

The bank secured the loan to cushion the effects of heavy withdrawals that ensued after it was named as a repository of funds that former President Joseph Estrada allegedly got from illegal gambling syndicates.

Equitable PCI Bank also suffered credibility problems because its former chair, George Go, was linked to Estrada's alleged money laundering activities.

Banking analysts said Equitable PCI Bank's settlement of its debts, which were in the form of securities repurchase agreements with the central bank, was the reason why the bank could now afford to reject offers from potential investors.

With P30 billion in debts, Equitable PCI Bank had been under pressure from government regulators to take in new investors. Analysts said with its debts to the central bank nearly paid, the bank was now in a position to determine for themselves how to go about its recapitalization plans.

The bank's major shareholders, including the Go family and state pension funds Government Service and Insurance System and Social Security System, have already decided to infuse up to P10 billion in additional capital instead of letting new investors come in.

GSIS president Winston Garcia said the bank's shareholders believed it was unfair to let a new group get a significant share in the bank and dilute everyone else's stakes at a cheap price.

"They have underestimated the shareholders of Equitable PCI Bank. We don't want to be unduly diluted," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

He said based on the proposals of interested investors, the only benefit would be that the price of Equitable PCI Bank shares would appreciate at the stock market.

Energy chief swears in new Napocor board

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday swore into office the new members of the board of National Power Corp.

Leading the list was Carlos Alindada, former chair of Sycip Gorres Velayo and Co.

Joining the new board were Ruben Almendras, executive vice president of Cebu International Finance Corp., and Jose Cortez, president of Pacific Cement Corp.

Also sworn in were Wilfredo Cu, Napocor's department manager of Transco-Southern Luzon, and corporate lawyer Inocencio Ferrer Jr.

Lawyer Wilfrido Pollisco would be representing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the state-run power firm's highest policy-making body.

On the other hand, Undersecretary Vincent Perez would sit as representative of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The new board was convened following the appointment of Napocor president Jesus Alcordo, who would also serve as the board's ex-officio vice chair.

As the law mandates, Energy Secretary Camacho will serve as chair.

The cash-strapped, debt-ridden power firm has accumulated total financial liabilities of P90 billion as of end-2000.

It is anticipating privatization pending the passage of the controversial power industry restructuring bill.

Napocor recently decided to go ahead with the review of at least five contracts with 42 independent power producers in a bid to alleviate its financial hemorrhage.

Napocor officials said some of the contracts, which were entered into during the height of the power crisis in the early 1990s, have become "too expensive."

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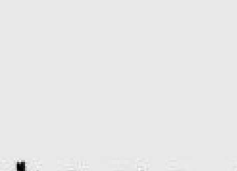

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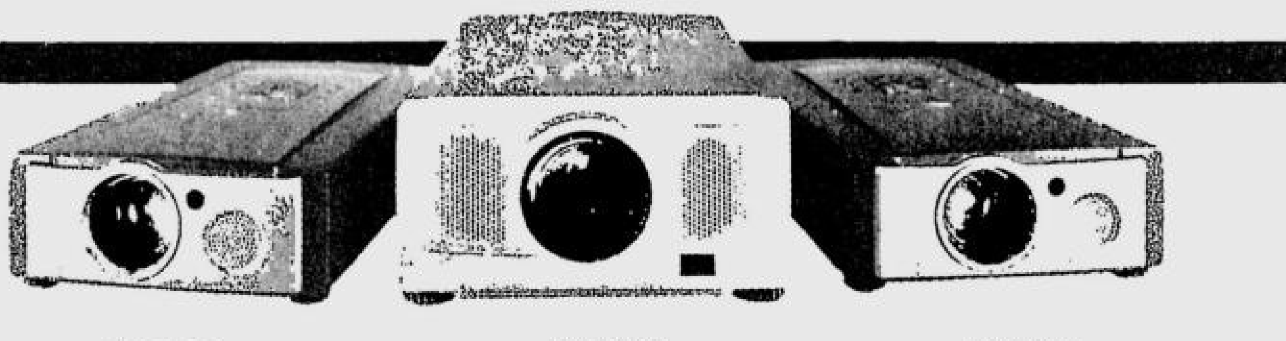

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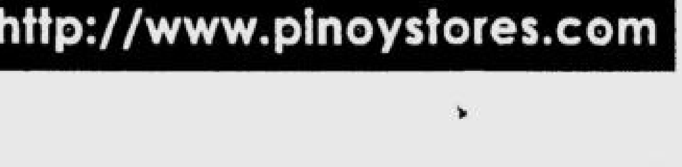

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PLDT taps American company for direct-to-home video plan

By Anthony O. Alcantara

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has decided to tap US firm EchoStar Communications Corp. as a joint-venture partner for its direct-to-home video business, which is slated to be launched before the elections in May.

An industry source yesterday said a memorandum of understanding would soon be signed in order to "formalize the partnership."

"They're coming over before the end of the month. PLDT feels they (EchoStar) have to be there. They know the business better than PLDT does," the source said.

He added that it would likely be a three-way partnership between PLDT, EchoStar and a local DTH company. The ownership structure is yet to be determined.

EchoStar and its subsidiaries deliver Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) television products and services to millions of customers worldwide. The company has three interrelated business units: DISH Network™, EchoStar Technologies Corp. and EchoStar Satellite Services.

EchoStar has the capacity to offer more than 500 digital video, data and audio channels of programming, including local networks and high definition TV.

The source said PLDT would be providing the transponders of its Agila 2 satellite while EchoStar would be providing the content as well as the setup boxes and satellite dishes for the DTH service.

Both parties would also be providing cash for the joint venture.

"Applying for our own license is the least of our options. We still hope to launch before the elections," said the source.

A PLDT official earlier said among those being considered by the PLDT group for acquisition or joint partnership are Philippine Multimedia Systems Inc. of Antonio Cojuangco, H. Thomas Telesis of Thomas H. Navasero, Pacific Cable and DTU Systems Inc., Altimax of Mel Velarde and GV Broadcasting of former Smart Communications boss Orlando Vea.

"We are still talking to all parties, though PMSI of Tony Boy (Cojuangco) is pushing through with the launching of its service on April 22," the source added.

However, PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto said talks with EchoStar "are still being pursued" but "nothing is imminent."

Last year, PLDT signed an MOU with EchoStar regarding the DTH service. However, delays in the acquisition of a license prevented the PLDT group from launching the service before the MOU expired late last year.

With the renewed interest and determination of the PLDT group to launch its own DTH business before the elections, PLDT might sign another MOU with EchoStar when the latter's representatives visit the country before the end of the month.

In an earlier interview, PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan said DTH was essentially a video and data service using satellite technology. DTH, an alternative to the traditional coaxial cable of cable TV, would entail the use of setup boxes and small satellite dishes.

Pangilinan said the advantage of this technology is that it would preclude the use of expensive cables and it would have immediate nationwide coverage that could reach even the remotest barrios.

The PLDT group is now studying how to come up with a pricing scheme that would be competitive with traditional cable TV.

Japan central bank downgrades view of economy

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan said yesterday that the Japanese economic recovery is in an adjustment phase as production is falling due to a decline in exports.

The overall economic assessment in the central bank's April report was downgraded from the previous month, when it said an economic recovery had stalled due to falling exports.

"Adjustments in economic activity have been under way as production is declining, reflecting a fall in exports," the report said.

The BOJ's Policy Board last Friday decided to keep monetary policy unchanged, after taking radical easing steps at its previous meeting less than a month ago.

The BOJ decision, which came after a two-day board meeting, means it will keep its target volume of current account deposits parked at the BOJ at five trillion yen ($40 billion), in effect keeping rates at zero.

The BOJ reiterated it would maintain the policy until nationwide core consumer prices stabilize near zero percent.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday his country was already feeling the effect of the US economic slowdown and the first-quarter growth figure may be less than hoped.

He was quoted by Bernama news agency, which gave no further details.

Last month Malaysia lowered its gross domestic product growth forecast for this year to between 5 and 6 percent, from 7 percent previously, amid an expected sharp fall in manufacturing.

Economists are less sanguine, predicting about 4.5-percent growth compared to 8.5 percent last year.

Last month Mahathir also unveiled a three-billion-ringgit ($789 million) supplementary budget to shore up the economy.

Almost 21 percent of all Malaysia's exports go to the United States, making it vulnerable to the slowdown there.

In a separate statement yesterday the Statistics Department said manufacturing sales in February were worth 26.3 billion ringgit, up 12.4 percent from a year earlier and up 1.2 percent from a month earlier.

It said the total employed in the sector fell 0.3 percent month-on-month.

Reuters, AFP

Palawan-Sabah . . .

(From page B1)

ing (another one from) Malampaya all the way to Sabah," Bomasang said.

Government-run PNOC-EC has a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas project, which Royal Dutch Shell Group subsidiary Shell Philippines Exploration BV operates.

Bomasang said Royal Dutch Shell was also undertaking gas-field projects in offshore Sabah, which bolsters the potential of a Palawan-Sabah link.

He added that the proposed project could begin within the decade and would involve a pipeline of about 1,000 kilometers.

The official also said that Petronas was considering a stake in a proposed onshore pipeline that would bring the Malampaya gas from Batangas to Manila.

Natural gas from Malampaya is expected to flow in June and be ready for use by October.

Three power plants in Batangas—the Sta. Rita, San Lorenzo and Ilijan generators—with a combined capacity of 2,700 megawatts would use the natural gas.

The Malampaya yield will be transported through a 504-kilometer offshore pipeline to Batangas.

The Malampaya consortium is also studying other uses of natural gas aside from power generation.

Breaktime

(From page B2)

It did not matter that, under the administrations of both Tita Cory and Kuya Eddie, the government audited the bank physically to find out who really owned it. Verified as authentic was a roomful of shares in the names of 1.2 million coconut farmers.

Despite those audits, this cute administration is using the same line that the bank is actually owned by the government. All right, let's say it is. But whose say so? On the government's, meaning, every new administration? No wonder the bank is failing!

Disclosures

PANCAKE House Inc. said its net income for the first 10 months ending December 2000 totaled P5.37 million, 15.2 percent higher over its target for the period. The company did not give comparative figures. Pancake House said the company's strong cash position was sufficient to finance its planned expansion this year. "This was a result of achieving higher profit margins from a targeted 58 percent to 64 percent; lower operating expenses particularly on cost of labor, restaurant, and commissary overhead," Pancake said.

* * *

ELECTED directors to the board of Banco Filipino were Teodoro Arcenas Jr., Albert Aguirre, Delfin Dimagiba, Orlando Samson, Cesar Paguio, Conrado Banzon, Jovito Hernandez, Ramon Montano, Antonio Tiu, Tommy Pea San Lim and Jacques Dupasquier.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27 with record date on May 14.

* * *

SOUTH China Resources Inc. moved the record date for its annual stockholders' meeting from March 29 to March 26. The meeting will be held on April 18, 2 p.m. at the Balmori Room of Peninsula Manila in Makati City.

* * *

TRANS-ASIA Oil and Energy Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 23, 3 p.m. at the Ballroom 1 of New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City. Only stockholders as of March 23 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27, 4 p.m. at the G/F Building A, Bonifacio Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Only stockholders as of March 16 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

LA Tondeña Distillers Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27, 2 p.m. at the SMC Cafeteria, Head Office Complex, San Miguel Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Only stockholders as of March 7 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

F&J Prince Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 16, 3 p.m. at the Ilang-Ilang Hall, Club Filipino, San Juan. Stockholders as of April 30 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BAGUIO Gold Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 2, 3 p.m. at the Park Ballroom of Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Manila. Only stockholders as of March 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, April 16, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	8,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	110	110	110	110	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69	69.5	31,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	47.5	47	47	27,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	216	220	214	215	72,230
Philippine National Bank	46	46	46	46	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.25	18.25	17.5	17.5	300,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.42	0.55	0.42	0.55	90,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1185	1185	1185	1185	710
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	36,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	915	910	910	1,330
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40	38.5	38.5	33,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.43	3,340,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	705	700	700	156,050
Ivantage Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.045	0.042	0.044	120,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	39,600
Manila Electric Co. B	59	59	58.5	59	49,000
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.88	1.92	2,447,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	2,277,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	3,220,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	5,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	39,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	52,300
RFM Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1	770,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	46	46.5	19,700
San Miguel Corp. B	50	51	50	51	97,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	103,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	36,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	400
A. Soriano Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	450,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.56	1.6	11,121,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	280,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	63,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	27,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	1.94	1.96	837,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	1,180,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	370,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	630,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.08	0.105	0.08	0.105	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	180,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	800,000
Pryce Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	150,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	150,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	1,450,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	90,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	800,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	41	41	38	38	343,900
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	43,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	465	465	465	465	10
Jollibee Warrants	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	3,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	2,965,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	160,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	2,140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.18	2.22	2.16	2.22	2,395,000
SM Prima Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7	1,047,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	380,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	16,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	578,870	26,516,990.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	158,476,160	178,899,095.00
PRO	9,237,000	30,495,220.00
Mining	8,390,000	112,600.00
OIL	19,100,000	111,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	195,782,030	236,135,305.00

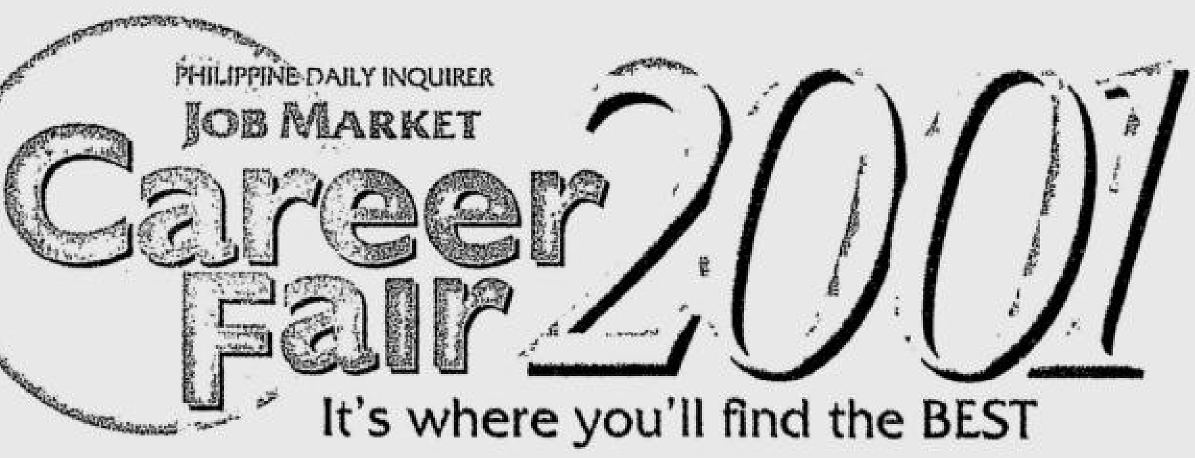
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	593.43	DOWN 0.44
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,963.31	UP 2.34
PRO	570.05	UP 12.41
Mining	1,079.34	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.58	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	717.81	DOWN 5.60
Composite	1,453.84	UP 8.58

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 30; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 82; NO. OF TRADES: 1,586

Currencies

April 16, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.124986	1.000000	49.8800
Japan	Yen	0.009071	0.008063	0.4022
United Kingdom	Pound	1.616717	1.437100	71.6825
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144243	0.128218	6.3955
Switzerland	Franc	0.656658	0.583703	29.1151
Canada	Dollar	0.720175	0.640164	31.9314
Singapore	Dollar	0.623088	0.553863	27.6267
Australia	Dollar	0.571727	0.508208	25.3494
Bahrain	Dinar	2.984206	2.652661	132.3147
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299972	0.266645	13.3003
Brunei	Dollar	0.619486	0.550661	27.4670
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000094	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.024796	0.022041	1.0994
UAE	Dirham	0.306293	0.272264	13.5805
Korea	Won	0.000849	0.000755	0.0377
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.888900	44.3383
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.454487	22.6698
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135512	6.7593
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.403365	20.1198
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064599	3.2222
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022035	1.0991
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000459	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149502	7.4572
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004434	0.2212
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005342	0.2665
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022035	1.0991
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.12867	56.2981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Caloocan GP 325m^2 Hse w/3 Stry 9283267

MANDALUYONG

•Nr Vergara St P4M LA250• 3BR FA180 DBO 7215226

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COMML/RESDL

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Mayon QC w/6 Units 480m^2 22T/m^2 9283267

MINDANAO AVE nr Road 5 780m^2 cor. lot 4134411

Nr. Morato 7 Units Apt. 690m^2 25T/m^2 9283267

Nr. Retiro Banawe 267m^2 w/Hse 7M Nice 9283267

Panay QC 1000m^2 w/2 Hse 2Stry Bung 26T/m^2 9283267

QUEZON AVE. nr D. Tuazon 1650m^2 cor. lot 4134411

SAN JUAN

San Juan P. Guevarra 300 P10M Call 723-2391

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Alabang Hills 3BR LA450 Den Nice P10M • 533-5525

LAS PINAS

Auburn Bnew 2Stry 3br 2tb 2.2M Terms 8726951

BFR 3br 2tb 1.8M 3br 2tb 2.5M 8726951 / 8723140

BFR Bnew Cor. 2Stry 4br 4tb 2.9M 8726951

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Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income • 928-1469

Magallanes Subd 4BR MQ LA367 FA320 • 643-5313

DASMA-1679m^2 5BR 4TB Pool @78m 8440130 Rosie

MANILA

Capt. Ticong - 419m^2 nr Sch 2sty P12.5M 8440130

L. Guinto 323m^2 2Stry 3br Nr Sch @11M 8440130

L.Guinto - 323m^2 2sty 3BR 3car grge P11M 8440130

MARIKINA

Good Buy @ 8.5M very nice Tri-Lev LA600 Big pool 8253244

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

2.6M 2 storey 3BR 300sqm FA 165LA 8267345

7.5M 2 storey 3BR 4TB 2 Lanai 2CG cor lot 8267345

PASIG

**Kawilihan Pasig P10M Cor. 3Br Call 671-4421

**Kawilihan Pasig Duplex P7.8M Neg. 671-4421

Greenwoods Pasig Hse & Lot 204LA 225FA 3BR 3TB w/Pool P5M Neg. 6400782 or 0917-9312577

Pasig City H&L A-250m^2 P2.5M • 534-6610 Jojo

Valle Verde 5 LA420 3BR P18M Only • 723-2391

VVerde 5 LA420 3BR P20M 1100 cor P39M • 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

Acropolis 300-330m^2 P17-20M 4BR 2Sty 6337601-03

Ayala Heights P15.5M Fixer Upper 671-4421

D. Tuazon St SMH QC 411m^2 2Stry 928-1469

Samat St w/ 5Stry Bldg 600m^2 SMH w/Hse 9298376

Baler St. Q.C. LA=3000m^2 WHse 18T/m^2 • 928-1469

B'ful 6 Brs Big Garden 2 Yrs Old P15.5M 671-4421

FULLY FURNISHED NEAR SM NORTH T# 9264889

Loyola Grand Villas 9M neg 09177062620 ; 4352346

Mayon St SMH QC A-960m^2 534-6610 • 818-8569 Jojo

Mira Nila QC 354FA 5br 5t&b 3stry 150LA 6.9M 9289714/9279609/4532899

LGV 1000m^2 4br attic 25M Panoramic View 412-1825

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HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

VV Greenmeadows 15Mup 412-1825 / 0917-7914366

Nr Ateneo FA315 LA268 H'O Ok w/View 12M 6453731

Sikatuna Bung LA412 4br FA250 8.5M Nice 6453731

UP Village QC Old House LA400m^2 6-8M • 533-5525

RIZAL

Beverly Hills LA1700sqm FA700m^2 P15M • 655-9393

Birmingham Place Cainta LA120m^2 4BR 2stry P2.5M 0917-9919774 / 0919-3727843

Dacon Townhomes LA155m^2 FA90m^2 1.8M • 655-9393

Homepoint Subd. LA79sqm FA60m^2 P950T • 655-9393

SAN JUAN

Greenhills Cor Only P38M 6714421 / 09175279121

Bargain GH H&L Corner 900m^2 P38M • 671-4421

Ghills N 1000 cor 6B Den Spool P38M M 723-2391

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Baguio House & Lot Good Location 531-3742

Tagaytay 249.5M 2Stry B-new Call 928-1469

1Hectares Bulacan Rdy 4 Piggery P3.5M 9281469

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•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m^2 up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775

LOT

LAS PINAS

BFR Rush 414 5T 526 5.2 5T 343 5.5ST 169 8726951

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MANILA

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Vito Cruz 909m^2 @ 50K/m^2 VL nr Stadium 8440130

MANDALUYONG

9 de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m^2 • 534-6610 Jojo

Wack Wack 1100m^2 Near Manuela P40T/m^2 671-4421

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m^2 VAC Mor Sun 16K/m^2 8440130

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PARANAQUE

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

STA MESA HTS 320m^2 9.5M Apo nr St. Catal. 4134411

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RIZAL

300m^2 Palos Verdes Antipolo Very Cheap • 937-1536

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Imelda Ave 464sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Kingsville Hills Area 120sqm P3T/sqm 655-9393, 655-4556

Lot 540m^2 Felix Ave Dir BuyerTessParayno 7155469

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RESDENTIAL LOT Montevideo Subd. Bo. Mambog Binangonan 289m^2 P2,300/m^2 Julius 651-1004

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Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

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Village East Area 387sqm 4,500/m^2 655-9393, 655-4556

Village East Binangonan 203m^2 cor. 5313742

With Old House Area 426sqm P3M • 655-9393 / 655-4556

SAN JUAN

Ghills North 750-960m^2 723-2391; 0917-3848111

Little Baguio 300-500m^2 723-2391; 0917-3848111

San Juan Lit Baguio 450m^2 Good 4 Wrhse 723-2391

San Juan Little Baguio LA=300 & up • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m^2 681-2457

Baguio Subd. LOT w/Pine Trees Tel. 5313742

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Colonade Legaspi Village 3BR 3TB 9.5M 915-5177

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MAKATI

Fort Boni The New City 3BR Only P8.2M • 671-4421

Makati 2-3BR P3.8M Cash/Terms Call 533-5525

MANDALUYONG

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack² Twin 2br FA145 Fcing Glf Crse Call 723-2391

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NrWEST AVE Kowloon 6 3M 4sty 4BR 2cg new 4134411

SCOUT nr Max FA290m^2 8M 3sty 4BR 2cg new 4134411

Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

Narra Hts1 3BR 2TB 1CG 125m^2 915-5177 641-9346

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

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PROVINCIAL

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MANILA

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QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE

MAKATI

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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SAN JUAN

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"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me
will never die."

John 11:25-26

ANGELINA COMSTI ASUNCION

(Widow of the late Engr. Pablo C. Asuncion Sr.)
of Pasig City

Peacefully joined her Creator on Easter Sunday, April 15, 2001at the age of 77.

Her bereaved stepchildren **MAYLEEN** and **MARIO BERNARDINO, BOYSIE** and **BINGLE ASUNCION, JUNJUN ASUNCION, PEANUTS** and **ASTER SOTTO**; sister **ADELAIDA COMSTI TUASON**; grandchildren **MARVIN, MENDEL, KITKIT, GELO, JOLINA, EDWARD, GISELLE, ERICA, EARL** and **EMINA**; nephews and nieces request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the ARLINGTON EAST GARDEN CHAPELS, C. Raymundo St. corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel Pasig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, APRIL 19, 2001 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church.

LEOPOLDO "POL" S. UICHANCO III, M.D.

peacefully joined our Lord on 15 April 2001
at the age of 46.

His wife **Maribel**; children **Malen, Mika** and **Erika**; parents **Leopoldo Jr.** and **Amelia**; mother-in-law **Herminia Villanueva**; brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Delaney Hall, Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Campus, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be offered on the morning of Thursday, 19 April 2001, at the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, to be followed by cremation services.

In lieu of flowers, donations to either the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry or the Paghihilom Center, Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, will be greatly appreciated.

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang

ROSITA FRANDO VDA. DE DATAR

December 7, 1992 – April 10, 2001

Jean Willo Lito Buddi Ramon, Rene Fr. Cecil Gigi Bambi Onnie and **Anna**, together with the nieces, nephews, grandchildren, in-laws, relatives and friends request prayers from the pious readers for her eternal repose

Interment will be on April 20, 2001 after a 2:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Sorsogon City

---

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION** (NTA), through its **Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee** (PBAC), invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for its Security Services at its Central Office Building and its eleven (11) Branch Offices, nationwide, namely, to wit:

CENTRAL OFFICE/BRANCH	NO. OF GUARDS
Central Office	9
Ilocos Norte - Batac	2
Ilocos Sur - Vigan	2
Ilocos Sur - Candon	2
La Union - San Fernando	2
Pangasinan - Rosales	2
Abra - Bangued	2
Isabela - Ilagan	2
Cagayan - Tuguegarao	2
Occidental Mindoro - San Jose	2
Visayas - Iloilo	2
Mindanao - Cagayan de Oro	2

The pre-qualification requirements are available for issuance to interested parties on **April 18, 2001 at the General Services and Procurement Division, Administrative Department, 3rd Floor, NTA Building, Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila.** The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on or before the close of office hours on **April 24, 2001.**

(PDI - Apr 17 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Informing the Public that PALCARANGAN BRIDGE, KM. 89.900 along Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road (GSO-Lubao Section) will be closed to traffic effective 8:00 AM of April 19, 2001 to April 20, 2001 for emergency and immediate repair. Detour road will be at San Antonio-Floridablanca Road via Consuelo Bridge and Sta. Cruz-San Pablo Road via Gutad-Dinalupihan Road.

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(PDI -- April 17, 2001)

INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Leghorn

Q. How did the White Leghorn chicken get its name?

A. Not from some distinctive body appendage, if that's what you're thinking. The small chicken, known for its hardiness and high production of fine, white eggs, actually got its name from the Italian town of Leghorn—or, more popularly, Livorno—capital of Leghorn province in the Tuscany region where the breed originated. The same name also refers to the dried and bleached straw of an Italian variety of wheat that is likewise rooted in Leghorn.

For the Record. The most prolific chicken on record is a White Leghorn, tagged No. 2988, which laid 361 eggs in 364 days during an official test conducted in 1979 by the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri.

Classified Odd. The son of a rich Italian merchant, St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), refused his inheritance to spend his life serving the poor. In 1224, he received the stigmata, bleeding from those places on his body were Christ had suffered his five sacred wounds. St. Francis loved the birds and all living creatures, insects among them. When someone caught a fish, he would throw it back into the water. When he walked, he would remove worms from his path. In winter, St. Francis served honey and wine to wild beasts. Although he allowed trees to be trimmed, he would not allow one to be cut down. He was, however, not a vegetarian.

WORD WATCH

Veterinarian (vet'uhr ih ner'ee uhn): from the Latin *veterina*, 'beasts of burden.'

PDI -- April 17, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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The **INQUIRER**'s Job Market has again lived up to its mandate to bridge the gap between employer and job seekers. The Job Market Career Fair 2001 offers you the biggest opportunity to find a career. Come to the Glorietta Activity Center on April 23 to 25, 2001 and file applications with more than 200 leading corporations. Come to Job Market Career Fair 2001 – it's where the brightest people find the best jobs.

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Creba's continuing advocacy for the homeless

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (Creba) has consistently focused not just on the interest of its own members, but more on enabling some 4.5 million homeless families to acquire their own decent homes.

Creba underscored this in a statement as it denounced the call of certain sectors for the Commission on Election to withdraw the party list accreditation of certain sectoral organizations for the May 14 elections.

Creba said the issues raised against it being "not representative of marginalized sector are baseless and utterly misleading.

Reacting to these publicized charges and a recent newspaper editorial, Creba said:

"Firstly, while Creba does not draw its members from the marginalized sectors, nonetheless it is a matter of public record that in its 27 years of existence, its advocacies have been consistently focused not just on the interest of its own members, but more on enabling some 4.5 million homeless families to acquire their own decent homes.

"About 75 percent of these homeless families are squatters or illegal settlers and live below the poverty line. They are both marginalized and underrepresented in terms of housing and other opportunities.

"Creba's track record shows that it has been among the earnest, vocal, consistent and effective advocates in fighting for the cause of the underprivileged.

"Many housing reforms intended to benefit underprivileged homeless families, such as the enactment of two landmark social housing laws—the Socialized Housing Law (Batas Pambansa 220) and the Urban Development and Housing Law (Republic Act 7279)—as well as the creation of the National Housing Authority, the Pag-Ibig Fund and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, among others, resulted in large measure from Creba's initiatives and advocacies.

"In fact, Creba incurred the ire of powerful forces in the Estrada administration when it vocally and vigorously opposed the HUDCC's home financing program which was biased in favor if higher-income groups, and instead, formulated and pushed for a financing program exclusively for homebuyers in socialized and low-income groups, to include the underprivileged in the informal sector who are not eligible for home financing from either the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, or Pag-Ibig.

"Creba's platform itself is geared not only toward the underprivileged homeless alone, but toward the entire marginalized sector itself, in terms of, among others, Creba's economic and poverty alleviation measures, such as a legislated reduction in bank lending rates to effect a simultaneous legislated increase in minimum wage.

"Secondly, under the Party List Law, participation is not limited to the marginalized or underrepresented sectors alone RA 7941 also identifies other sectoral organizations that may participate, to include professionals. Creba has thus been accredited as the national professional organization in the housing and real estate sector.

"Thirdly, the Party List Law is not intended exclusively to promote the interest of the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, but also the interest of the nation as a whole, as evident from the Section Two of RA 7941 which requires of the Party List candidates the capability to 'contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation that will benefit the nation as a whole.'"

Then Creba pointed out:

"Whether RA 7941, which operationalized the Party List provision of the Constitution in 1994, is unwise, unreasonable, or constitutionally flawed is a non-issue at this time. The Comelec is bound to implement the law as it is just as everyone is bound to respect this law or any other law for as long as it has been amended by congress itself or declared unconstitutional by the judicial branch of our government."

Creba added: "This is to be doubly expected of those who seek to be a part of the legislative body that enacted this law and those who in fact won under the first Party List election in 1988 but did nothing either to amend said law or challenge its constitutionality."

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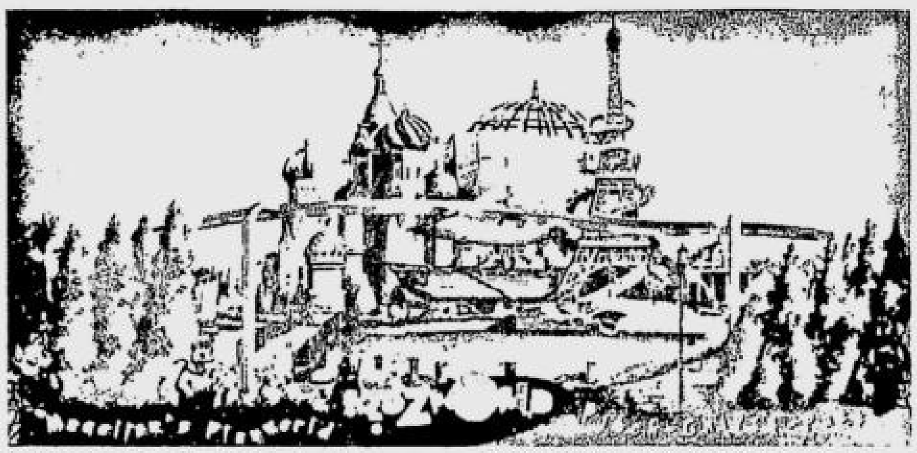
First-of-its-kind theme park opens in Cavite

FINALLY, here's a perfect setting for leisure and recreation, fellowship, creative and fruitful play plus wholesome entertainment for every member of the family! Welcome Kidzworld!

Picture this—an 18-hole pitch-chip- and putt golf course, a multilevel sports and extreme game club, children's interactive learning center, health and fitness venue, artist's gallery, themed dining, nature and adventure trail, business center, an entertainment, amusement and theme park—all in one sprawling complex.

Kidzworld is the first-of-its-kind child-oriented nature, sports and adventure club complex in the country. Created with the child's total development in mind, Kidzworld takes a holistic approach by providing 88 new thrills, creative and interactive games and fun-filled adventure designed to stimulate all five senses including the sixth and more.



KIDZWORLD: An exclusive kid-friendly landmark development

Kid-friendly

This exclusive, kid-friendly landmark development by the Ponce Group of Companies and Sun Raise Consultants Ltd. of Hong Kong is on a prime commercial property at the corner of E. Aguinaldo Highway and Governor's Drive in Dasmariñas, Cavite, a 40-minute drive from Makati, amid major gold courses in the south of Metro Manila. It is also conveniently located beside the upcoming SM and Robinsons Mall.

Summer this year will never be the same as Kidzworld opens phase 1 of its 5-phase development—the first and only USGA Pitch-Chip-and-Putt 18-hole course in the world. Unlike other golf course where children are not allowed to play in the fairway, kids can enjoy a game of golf with adults in this course. This all-weather-playable-at-night executive course offers a real venue for practice of those nerve-wracking putts, heart-breaking chips and all the short game, which is 65 percent of golf. It is real golf complete with bunkers, water hazards and the comfort of a clubhouse.

Scheduled to break ground this month is the phase 2—the Batanes Cove. A magical waterworld of Magellan's journey to the Triassic white-water rafting dark ride adventure, log ride, wave pool, heated lagoon, snorkeling, lazy river and craggy-rocks rock climbing aboard a true replica of the historic galleon.

Magellan's Playworld is the third. This third phase is an enchanting setting of the seven continents featuring the Asian Fishing Village, the African Safari Maze, the International Dollhouse Village, Europe's Eiffel Tower slide and St. Peter's Dome wading pool, South American Remote Control Rally Racing, Australian Carousel and the Antartica's Igloo.

Perfect venue

Next is Kidz Palace, a perfect venue for everyone. From hands-on leisure learning to closing a business deal, the facility is equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment to cater to all your needs from daycare, soft gym, gigantic building blocks, artist's gallery, record-n-play studio of kids and toddlers alike to the game room, the home theater, health and spa fitness gym, beauty salon, themed dining, library, internet café and business center of the adults. Pamper yourself and relax in the Garden of Scents, Herb Arboretum, Orchidarium, or simply gaze and meditate in the serene garden of Zen.

Fifth is the MAC or the multilevel activity center. This glass and steel eight-story building houses the ice skating, glow-in-the dark bowling, Olympic-size swimming pool, go-cart racing, extreme sports, ghost blasters, giant board games, multipurpose gym and more!

Kidzworld design philosophy was inspired by Dr. Lauren Bradway, Ph. D. on Human Ecology. Her research shows that "a child who can put all her senses to work has a greater chance at success compared to a child left to learn on a single style.".

This one-of-a-kind facility will strictly be for members only. It is lifetime proprietary membership with real benefits such as voting rights, pro-rata ownership on all assets, and improvements and amenities including the land on which it is located.

Be part of Kidzworld. For more information on your personal journey through curiosity, wonder, creativity, discovery and fun, call 721-2167, 721-3509, 725-1822; or fax at 723-2596.

Houses with CPAC Monier roofs more marketable

QUALITY homes and buildings now carry the CPAC Monier trademark, which has become a marketing tool for most real estate companies as the use of the CPAC Monier Roof system actually adds value to properties and make them more marketable.

More and more builders can attest to the superior performance of CPAC Monier (CMPI) tiles and this preference for CMPI products can be seen in the increasing patronage of CPAC Monier across the country. There have also been a growing number of individual residential houses roofed with CPAC Monier tiles.

Since its introduction in the local market in early 1999, CPAC Monier tiles have been installed in several projects undertaken by leading developers like Ayala Land Inc., Filinvest Inc., LPHI, Megaworld Properties Inc., Narel Construction & Development Corp., Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp., Asia Land Strategies Corp., BF Citiland Corp. and Pilar Development Corp. as well as landmark projects like Vietnam Embassy and Agoo Provincial Hospital.

CPAC Monier roof tiles come in a whole range of vibrant single and two-tone colors that blend and complement any landscape or environment. The roof tiles are watertight and have special interlocking features on top side and multiple weather bars on the underside that prevent water penetration, thus precluding the need for undersheeting. They are exceptionally durable and are virtually maintenance-free.

CPAC Monier Philippines Inc. is a joint venture of such world-renowned firms as Lafarage Group of France and the Siam Cement Group of Thailand. Backed by Redland PLC of the United Kingdom (a wholly owned subsidiary of Lafarage) that is the world's leading technologist and manufacturer of roof tiles, CMPI produces concrete roof tiles that are both functional and esthetically appealing. The tiles have been developed through years of design and research, culminating in a high-weatherproof performance roofing material that is very affordable.

Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower now ready for occupancy

CITYLAND Development Corp. recently announced that Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower is soon ready for occupancy.

The 38-story office, commercial and residential condominium is strategically located across Don Bosco Technical Institute on Pasong Tamo Street, Makati City. Within the vicinity are leading business establishments, recreational centers, schools, churches and hospitals.

Cityland Pasong Tamo is provided with state-of-the-art amenities to ensure convenience and prestige amd to meet the needs of the practical investor and entrepreneur. Amenities like swimming pool and spa, function room, gym, male and female sauna, children's playground, roof garden, view deck, jogging area, emergency alert system, driver's paging system at the lobby and 24-hour association security provide good value for investment.

Affordable commercial, office and residential units in studio, one-bedroom, two and three bedrooms are available in cash or easy installment terms of up to 10 years.

Tile industry shifting to...

(From page B8)

best for their purpose," he said.

Although it's the cheaper way to go, cement tiles, said ceramic tile advocates, are not long-lasting. Even cement tiles, they say, are not abrasion-resistant.

"I think you've seen some old restaurants, very Spanish looking, but the shine doesn't stay long and these have to be replaced. If you are looking at small restaurants that have to be renovated for a year or so then it would be expensive," added Alava.

Espiritu said, however, that cemented tiles can compete head-on with ceramic tiles in terms of durability, and that ceramic tiles, despite their reputation that they don't absorb moisture, are also prone to breakage just like culinary plates.

"Take note of the broken ceramic tiles in Megamall. They could easily break when for instance a child holds a bottle and drops it accidentally on a ceramic tile," he said. Espiritu added, however, that in the end, it would still depend on the customers on what type of tile he would choose.

Habitiles' raw materials-cement, sand, stone—are locally sourced except for the pigment. Habitiles is not the only cement tile maker in the country. The biggest is Machuca Tiles that has been in existence for 100 years now.

Lepanto tiles' raw materials, meanwhile, are locally sourced except for the glazes (the stains and the coatings that are put on the tiles). Aside from Lepanto, other top firms in the ceramic tile industry are Mariwasa and Eurotiles.

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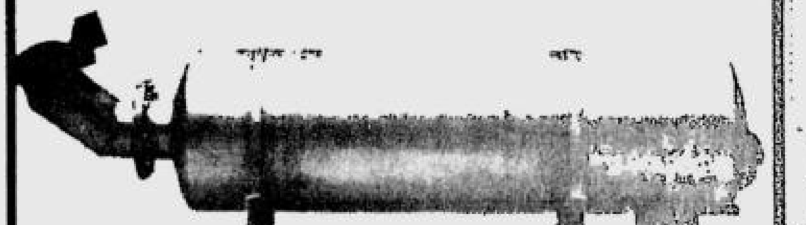

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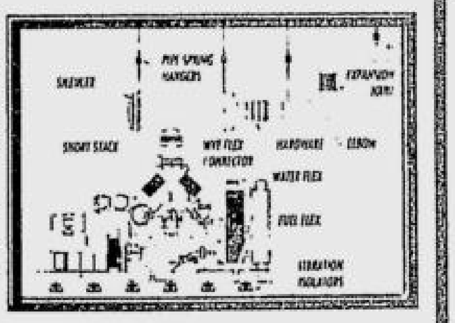

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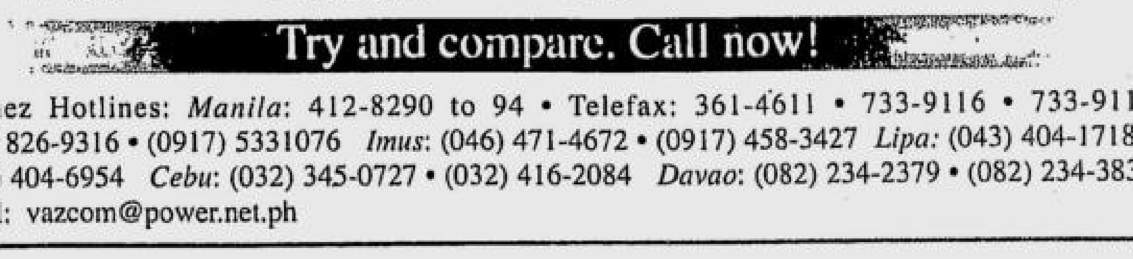

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Tile industry shifting to Mediterranean look

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

YOU step on them, dance on them, and generally just take them for granted. But they're everywhere. Filipino homes, malls, restaurants and offices are practically invaded by tiles almost end to end, floors to walls. These tiles can look modern, like the "busy-as-a-bee" look of a mall or office, or be rustic like a convent or a church.

Ceramic tiles could range from glazed decoratives available in high-gloss, matte and abrasive slip-resistant finishes to handcrafted cement tiles as stunning as a statement on the history of Spanish or European influences.

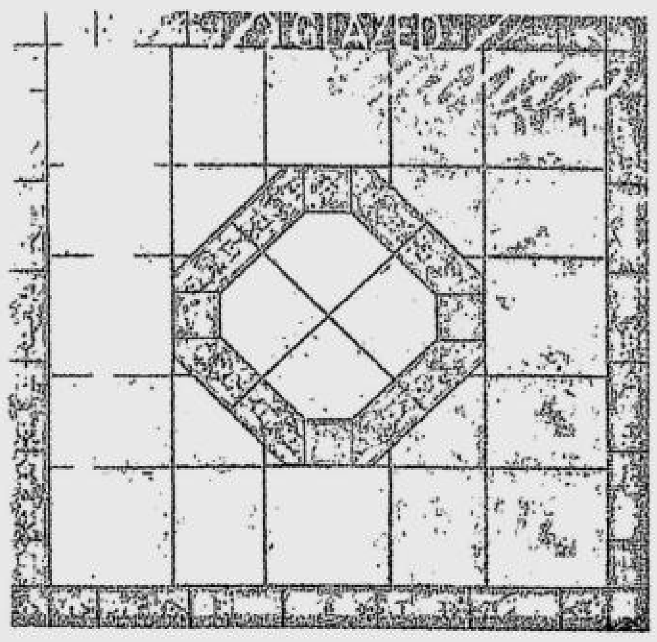
Trend

The Mediterranean look is the trend the tile industry is leaning toward to nowadays, said the two firms representing a competing group of tile makers—cemented tiles and ceramic tiles. Does the Mediterranean trend mean enough of the neutral ceramic tile (plain white, almond or gray)?

Floor tile experts say no, but although the neutral look—like the white and almond tile—is most common, people are getting more adventurous in trying out with more warmth and color.

Habitiles president Edwin Espiritu believes that the Mediterranean look fits perfectly his type of tile. Habitiles, maker of cemented tiles located in Pasay City, is focused on niche marketing. The Malaga tile was one eye-catching tile design it had recently highlighted during the Worldbex exhibit at the World Trade Center. It was derived from a southern province in Spain and is one of the many handcrafted cemented tiles introduced and produced by the Spanish colonists in the country during the 18th century.

Demands for Habitiles mostly come from south of Metro Manila such as Tagaytay, Ayala Alabang and BF Homes. It has a dealership called Amazing Space in Shangri-La. It exports tiles for Spanish-inspired homes in the US via direct sales on the web.


LEPANTO'S Castille series has the mystique of medieval times.

Espiritu claims that Habitiles' revenue has compounded by 50 percent for the last two years, considering that it had only a small market. He said ceramic tiles—which gained popularity when they were first used on a large scale inside the malls—may not be the preference of the future as environment concerns get in the way.

"In the future, we can no longer afford ceramic tiles because (producing) ceramic tiles consume so much energy. We make ceramic tiles using fire or oven and you need plenty of fuel to make that. In fact, tiles being fueled by wood consume plenty of energy and are therefore energy-intensive," said Espiritu.

Meanwhile, Lepanto Tiles' vice president for sales and marketing Eugene Alava said that in terms of the design, the tile industry is indeed going toward the Mediterranean, rustic look. Lepanto, being a maker of ceramic tiles, developed the Mediterranean-look tiles when it started developing the US market. Lepanto has just finished exporting an order of 180,000-sq.-m tiles to the Housing Development Board in Singapore that has a housing project. Aside from the United States and Singapore, it also exports to Australia and Brunei.

Drawbacks

"Nothing will compete with the beauty of natural stones," he said. Alava, added, however, that cemented tiles have their drawbacks, too, which include high-moisture absorption. Cracks on natural stones, like marbles, absorb more water.

"Eventually cement will absorb even more water, it's porous and that's when the problem starts. *Aamagin* (It'll grow molds). It won't stay clean for long. Again, that is the problem of the Mediterranean design but that's the design people are going to now. It's really up to the customers what they would prefer. With the design of the cement (tiles) following the Mediterranean, we also have our own," he said.

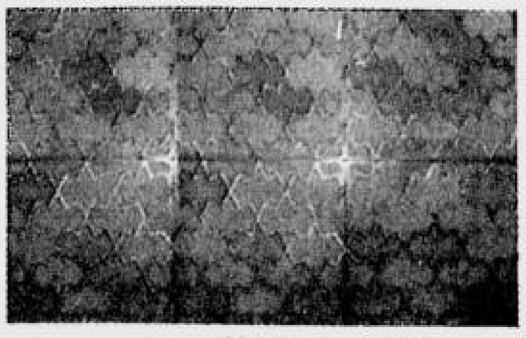
Durability

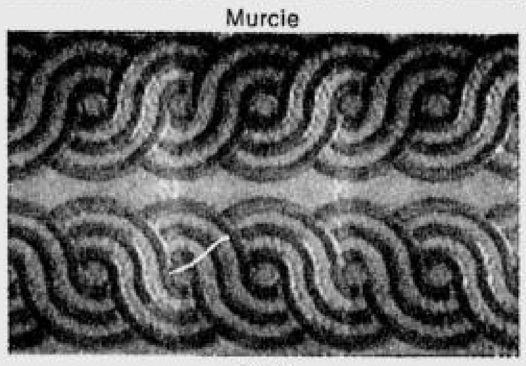
Certain tests are made to flooring tiles—whether it's ceramic, natural stones or cement. There are tests to find out if these are abrasion-resistant, chemical-resistant, staining or breakage-resistant.

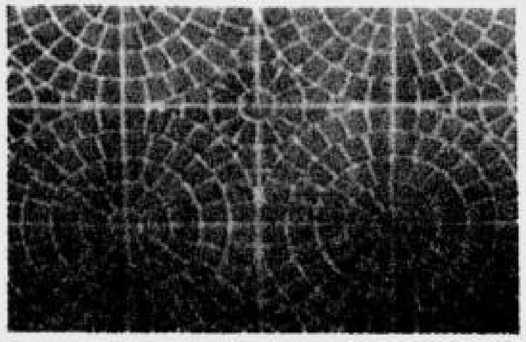
All technical specifications, said Alava, are available for the end users to find out.

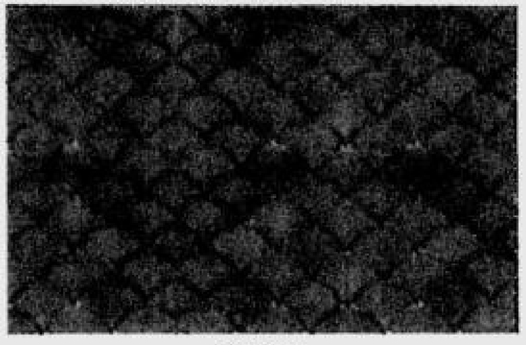
"If these end users are in the know, like the architects and contractors, they would find out what will be the

TILE/p.B7


Murcie


Ocho


Piedra


Escama

HABITILES' handcrafted cement tiles with a wide array of designs that includes Spanish origin, Islamic influence patterns and antique tile designs from other European countries.

"Now, I want everything to last."

The same is true in Kris Aquino's choice of tiles. Her floor, all covered by Eurotiles, says it all—scratch-free even in the face of son Joshua's roughest toys.

Eurotiles, the tough ceramic tiles, last for a very long time. With over 400 beautiful designs to suit every home, each tile is made using superior European technology for durability and strength.

"Good as forever. Take it from Kris.

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SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
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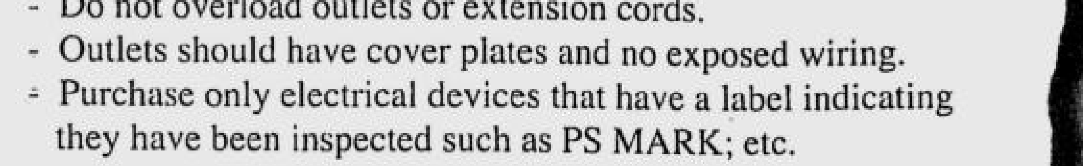
We repair, overhaul and upgrade existing security systems.

Most fires are caused by faulty electrical wiring

FIRE PREVENTION GUIDE:

- Replace wiring if frayed or cracked.
- Make sure wiring is not under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- Do not overload outlets or extension cords.
- Outlets should have cover plates and no exposed wiring.
- Purchase only electrical devices that have a label indicating they have been inspected such as PS MARK; etc.

Fuses / Fluorescent Starters / Lampholders / Switches / Plugs
Receptacles / Detecto-lite / Soldering Paste / Outlets / Wall Plates



A friendly reminder from
EAGLE ELECTRIC
in support of Fire Prevention.

UPS CERTIFIED Product Quality

WARNING: Beware of Imitations

HomeMART
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Alabang Zapote Road
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CERAMIC PLAZA
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THE LEADING SPANISH CERAMIC TILE

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ALABANG ZAPOTE ROAD
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TOYOTA
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ISUZU ALABANG
FORD ALABANG
AYALA ALABANG VILLAGE
GOOD YEAR
PILAR VILLAGE

DTI NCR Permit No. AII-066 Series of 2001

STYLNUL	SIZE	Sale Price/pc.	Pcs./sq. m.	Sale price/sq. m.
FLOOR	33 cm X 33 cm (13" X 13")	P40.00	9	P360.00
	40 cm X 40 cm (16" X 16")	P64.00	6	P384.00
	45 cm X 45 cm (18" X 18")	P88.00	5	P440.00
WALL	20 cm X 20 cm (8" X 8")	P14.40	25	P360.00
	20 cm X 30 cm (8" X 12")	P22.40	16	P358.40
	25 cm X 40 cm (10" X 16")	P40.00	10	P400.00

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Ortigas Ave. Ext. / 204 1211

LAS PIÑAS
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Alabang Zapote Rd
508 9242

MARCOS III WAY
[illegible]
J & T Bldg. Masang,
Marcos Highway
Antipolo, Rizal
670 0602

PASIG
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Rosario
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QUEZON AVENUE
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731 1380

MUNTINLUPA
Chua Tie Ang Bldg.
Tunasan, Muntinlupa
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EUROTILES
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DRT Hi-way
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(044) 673 0445

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LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

What happens when you pig out

An occasional binge won't do much harm. The danger, however, is when you think you can get rid of excess calories before they have a chance to really do you in

A READER had a few questions about what happens when peo ple go on an eating binge at an eat-all-you-can restaurant. How fast will the food be metabolized and fat be stored in the body? Will "burning" fat through aerobic exercise be as quick?

WELL AND GOOD

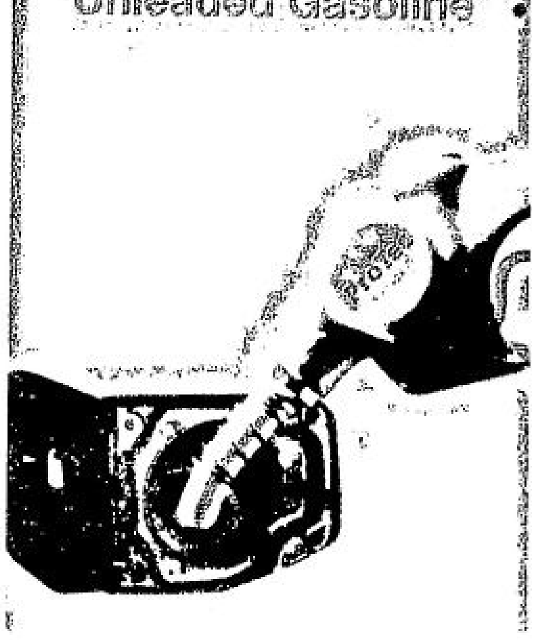
Tina Aboitiz Juan

There is really a tendency to eat too much at eat-all-you-can restaurants. First, we eat more because the sight of food stimulates our appetite. There is a big difference between reading the description of an entrée in a menu and actually seeing the food laid out before your eyes on a buffet table. As they say, a picture paints a thousand words.

Second, the greater the variety of food available, the more we eat. No matter how much you love ice cream, if that is all you are "allowed" to eat, I guarantee you will lose interest in a few days. That's why single food diets like the cabbage soup diet or the bananas and milk diet work temporarily. Of course, in the end they

WHAT HAPPENS/ p. C3

TOTAL
Care Corner
Don't warm-up your car longer than 30 seconds as this burns fuel unnecessarily. Instead, start your car and drive off slowly and smoothly to save on fuel and time.
A caring reminder from
ProTec
Unleaded Gasoline



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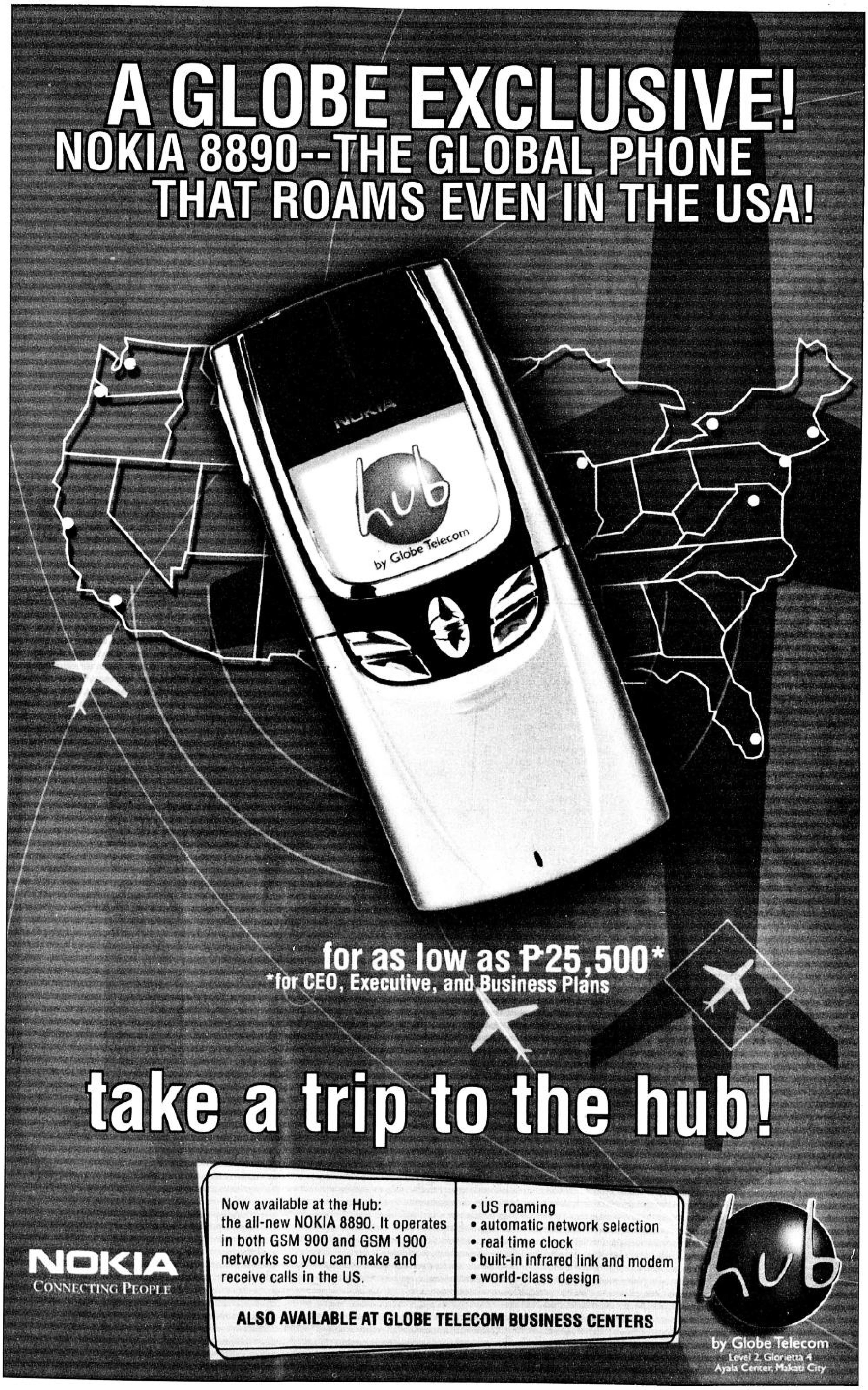
IT'S OUR NATURE TO CARE. TOTAL



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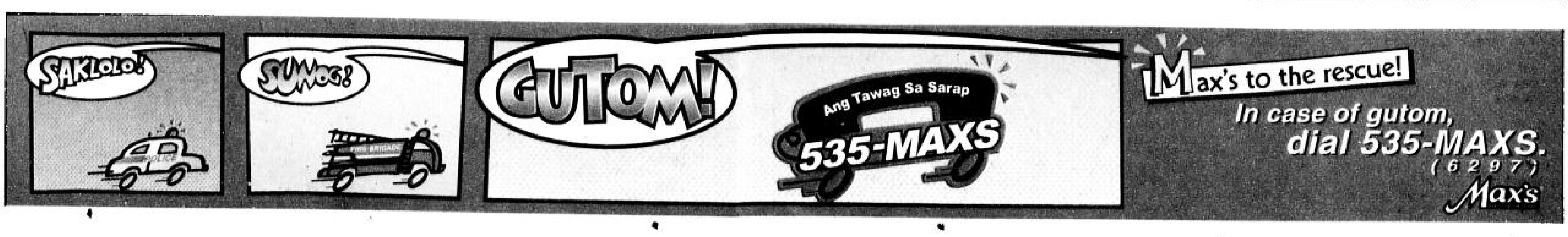
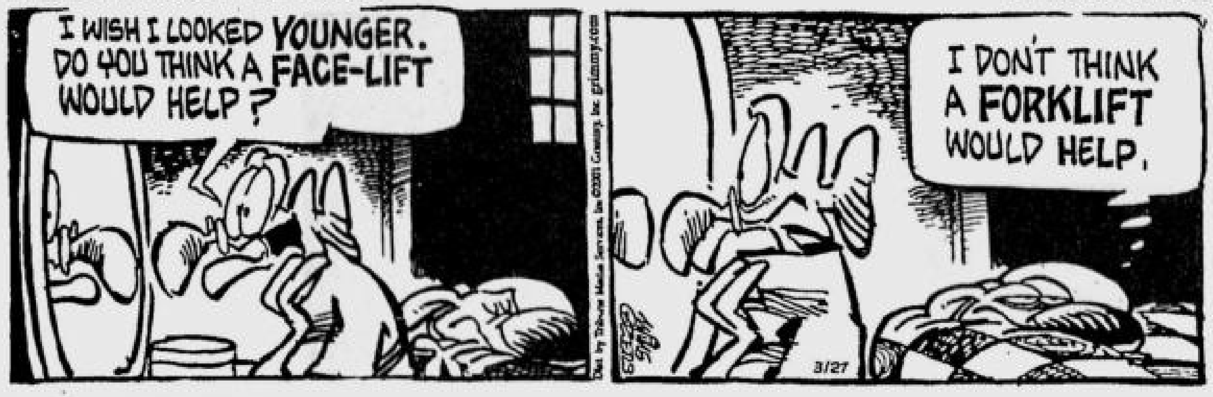


Max's to the rescue!
In case of gutom,
dial 535-MAXS.
(6297)
Max's

SAKLOLO!
SUNOG!
GUTOM!
Ang Tawag Sa Sarap
535-MAXS

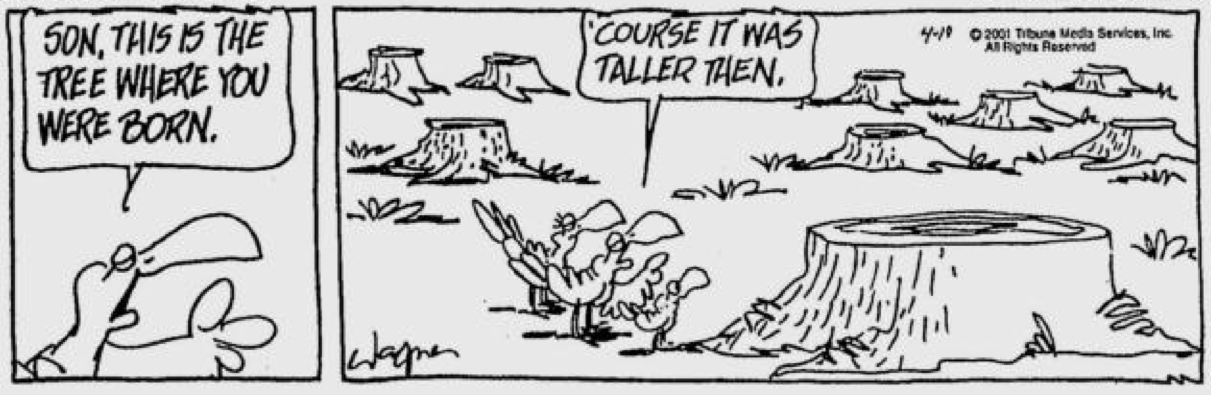
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I WISH I LOOKED YOUNGER. DO YOU THINK A FACE-LIFT WOULD HELP?
I DON'T THINK A FORKLIFT WOULD HELP.
3/27

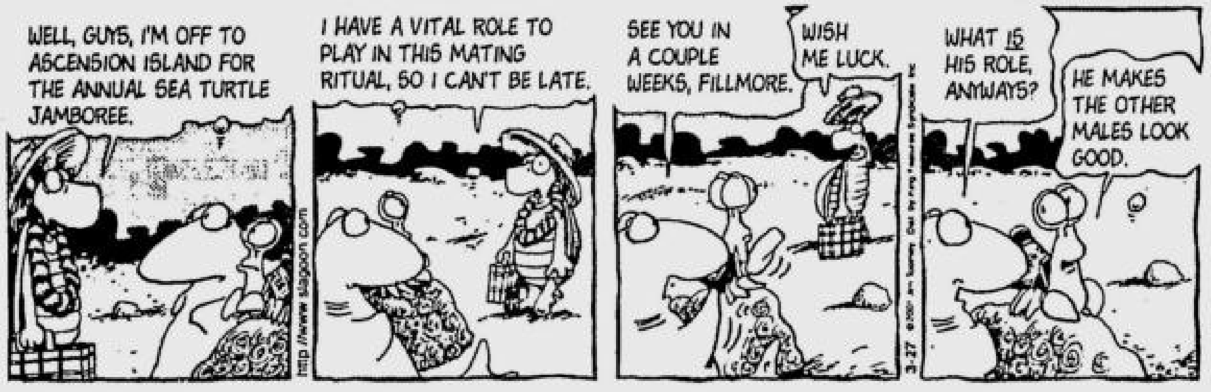
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SON, THIS IS THE TREE WHERE YOU WERE BORN.
'COURSE IT WAS TALLER THEN.
4-19 © 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
Wagner

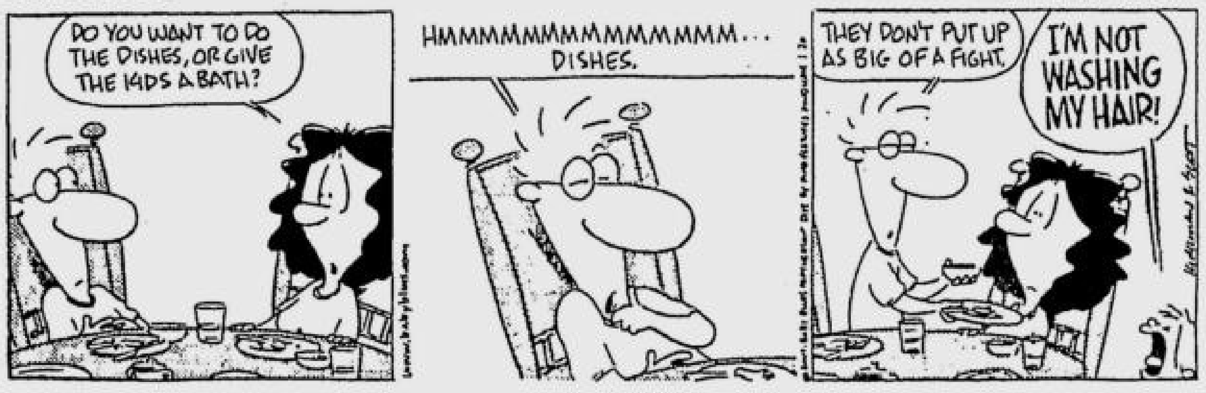
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WELL, GUYS, I'M OFF TO ASCENSION ISLAND FOR THE ANNUAL SEA TURTLE JAMBOREE.
I HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS MATING RITUAL, SO I CAN'T BE LATE.
SEE YOU IN A COUPLE WEEKS, FILLMORE.
WISH ME LUCK.
WHAT IS HIS ROLE, ANYWAYS?
HE MAKES THE OTHER MALES LOOK GOOD.
http://www.slagoon.com
3-27

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DO YOU WANT TO DO THE DISHES, OR GIVE THE KIDS A BATH?
HMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM... DISHES.
THEY DON'T PUT UP AS BIG OF A FIGHT.
I'M NOT WASHING MY HAIR!
Kirkman & Scott

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nikita Khrushchev, Riccardo Patrese, William Holden, Olivia Hussey, John Oates, Sugar Ray Leonard, Lela Rochon

Happy Birthday: You will try to do everything and be uncomfortably busy this year. Stress is up and patience is down. In looking for creative challenges, you may have overstepped your bounds. Focus, discipline and hard work will be required, but if you manage to pull it off, you will make your greatest accomplishments to date. Your numbers: 11, 23, 31, 34, 40, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Love will beckon if you become involved in unusual forms of entertainment. You should join a group that will help you develop your talents—dance, theater, pottery, or any other interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful when dealing with affairs of the heart. One-sided relationships will be hurtful if you don't keep them in perspective. Don't become fanatical about your fantasies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your humor, versatility and charm will attract just about anyone you're interested in. Don't hold back; let others know exactly what you think and how you feel about them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Difficulties when dealing with other people's money will come back to haunt you if you don't do a thorough job. Read the fine print before you persuade someone to sign on the dotted line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spend a quiet day with your mate. You've probably neglected his or her needs during the last few weeks, so make up for lost time. You can turn things around with a little affection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can achieve your goals if you present your ideas to superiors. Don't hold back because of your insecurities. It's time to take a stance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to catch up on overdue correspondence. Talk to relatives about your personal problems and see if they have any advice to help you through this period of change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't hold back. Say what you think. Your ability to get your point across may be hurtful, but it will be appreciated. You need to make the changes necessary to your happiness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to talk to the big spenders. Run your ideas by them and see if you can't get a backer and a partner for your concept. Push your product and you'll see some returns.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your discipline to finish those unfinished jobs. You let your personal paperwork pile up, and now's the time to clear your desk. You'll feel much better knowing the work is done.

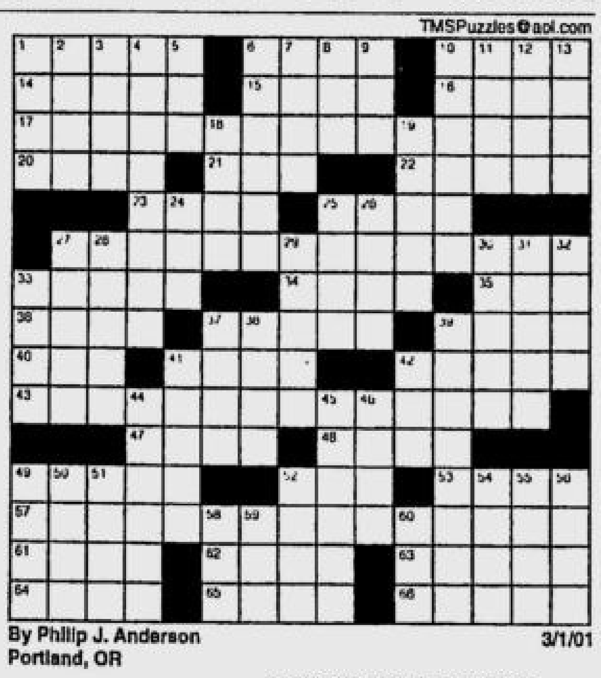
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to be optimistic about your future. You can get ahead if you use your intellect and insight into future trends. Don't let criticism stand in the way of a good product.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you work with may not see things the same way you do. Don't be swayed to do things their way. You work best when you follow your own instincts.

Birthday Baby: Your mind is moving a mile a minute. What will you do next? You are full of surprises and will always look for adventure and excitement in all that you do. Your imagination will lead you into many different scenarios.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

3/1/01

ACROSS
1 Diets religiously?
6 Single guy
10 Female horse
14 Whopper peddlers
15 Bring to heel
16 By mouth
17 Lower case poet, uncommonly
20 Make one's way
21 Break bread
22 Irregularly notched
23 Caspian feeder
25 Ceremony
27 Hornblower's creator, uncommonly
33 Mauled
34 Leonine cry
35 Compass dir.
36 Saharan
37 British chap
39 2501
40 Writer Deighton
41 Prod
42 Fowl choice
43 "Billy Bathgate" author, uncommonly
47 Memory method
48 Dryer deposit
49 Essential acid
52 Part of GTE
53 Davenport's location
57 "The Catcher in the Rye" author, uncommonly
61 Sea of Asia
62 Moselle feeder
63 Fill an empty flat
64 Tear
65 Does wrong
66 Stairway

DOWN
1 Took to the air
2 Assistant
3 Cut
4 Maligned
5 Lat. or Lith., once
6 Robs
7 Savoir-faire
8 __ Darya River
9 Precious stone
10 Watered-silk fabrics
11 Tuscany river
12 Cloth scraps
13 Besides
18 Trade (in)
19 Poetic rhythm
24 Make free (of)
25 Castling piece
26 "Dies __"
27 Showed concern
28 Adlai's middle name
29 "Lord of the Rings" adventurer
30 Pace
31 Provide with income
32 Keep in check
33 Faded
37 Depart quickly
38 Fill the hold
39 Disciplinarian
41 Stable worker
42 Bunco game
44 Infamous traitor
45 Removes obstructions
46 Cash drawer
49 Not quite closed
50 Nothing more than
51 Persia, now
52 Russian ruler
54 Get an eyeful
55 Shed tears
56 Liberal __
58 Language ending
59 __ es Salaam
60 April 15 grp.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

H	O	R	N	S	■	A	R	E	A	■	I	D	O	L
I	D	I	O	T	■	N	A	C	L	■	D	O	L	E
T	I	G	E	R	A	T	T	H	E	G	A	T	E	S
S	C	A	L	A	R	■	T	O	U	R	■	S	O	S
■	■	■	S	I	L	L	Y	■	T	I	P	■	■	■
V	O	C	■	G	O	O	■	L	I	T	E	R	A	L
O	P	R	A	H	■	I	L	I	A	■	R	A	G	E
I	C	E	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	Z	E	B	R	A
D	I	E	N	■	G	E	N	T	■	O	S	I	E	R
S	T	P	E	T	E	R	■	T	A	O	■	D	E	N
■	■	■	R	I	G	■	S	A	N	T	A	■	■	■
S	S	W	■	T	R	O	T	■	E	S	P	A	N	A
T	H	E	L	I	O	N	I	N	W	I	N	T	E	R
I	O	N	A	■	U	C	L	A	■	M	E	T	R	E
R	E	D	O	■	P	E	L	T	■	S	A	N	D	S

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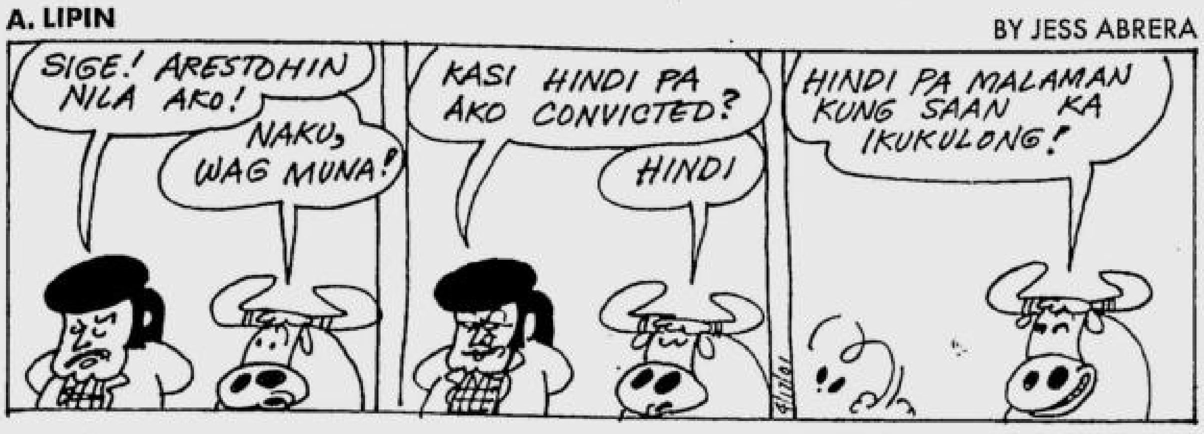
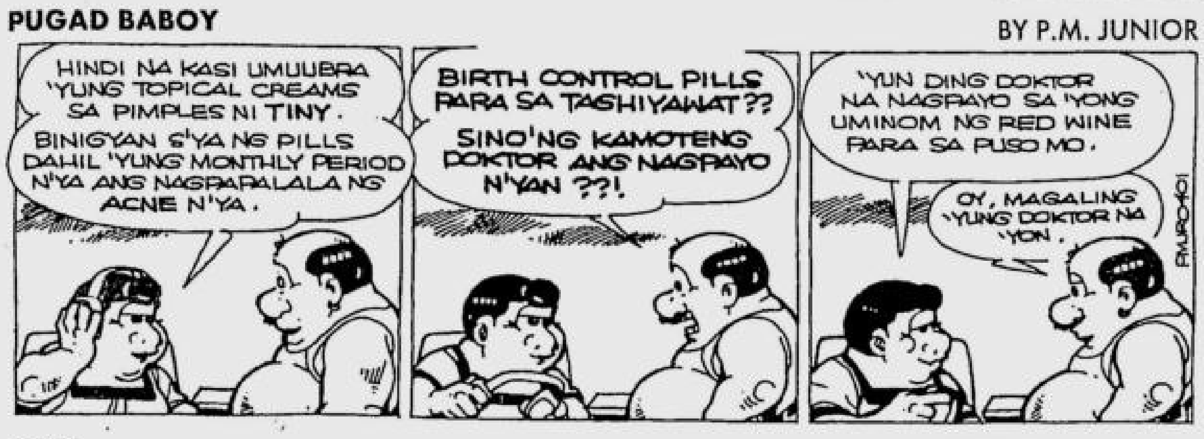
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SIGE! ARESTOHIN NILA AKO!
NAKU, WAG MUNA!
KASI HINDI PA AKO CONVICTED?
HINDI
HINDI PA MALAMAN KUNG SAAN KA IKUKULONG!

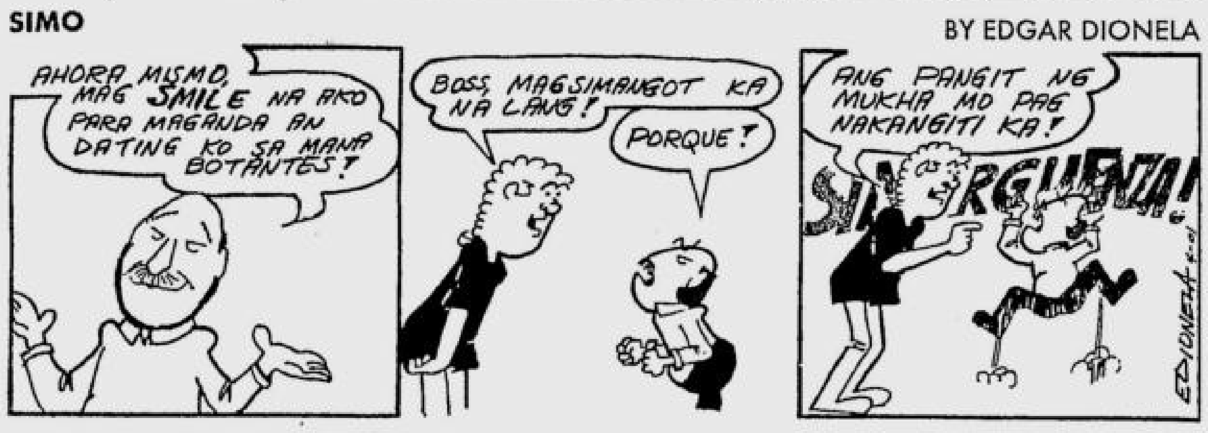
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI NA KASI UMUUBRA 'YUNG TOPICAL CREAMS SA PIMPLES NI TINY.
BINIGYAN S'YA NG PILLS DAHIL 'YUNG MONTHLY PERIOD N'YA ANG NAGPAPALALA NG ACNE N'YA.
BIRTH CONTROL PILLS PARA SA TAGHIYAWAT??
SINO'NG KAMOTENG DOKTOR ANG NAGPAYO N'YAN ??!.
'YUN DING DOKTOR NA NAGPAYO SA 'YONG UMINOM NG RED WINE PARA SA PUSO MO.
OY, MAGALING 'YUNG DOKTOR NA 'YON.
PMJR0401

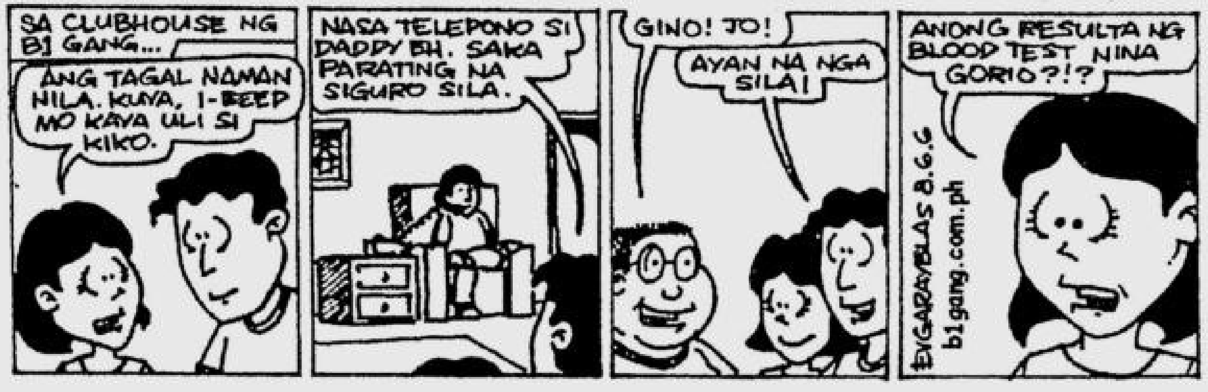
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AHORA MISMO, MAG SMILE NA AKO PARA MAGANDA AN DATING KO SA MANA BOTANTES!
BOSS, MAGSIMANGOT KA NA LANG!
PORQUE!
ANG PANGIT NG MUKHA MO PAG NAKANGITI KA!
SINVERGUENZA!
EDIONELA

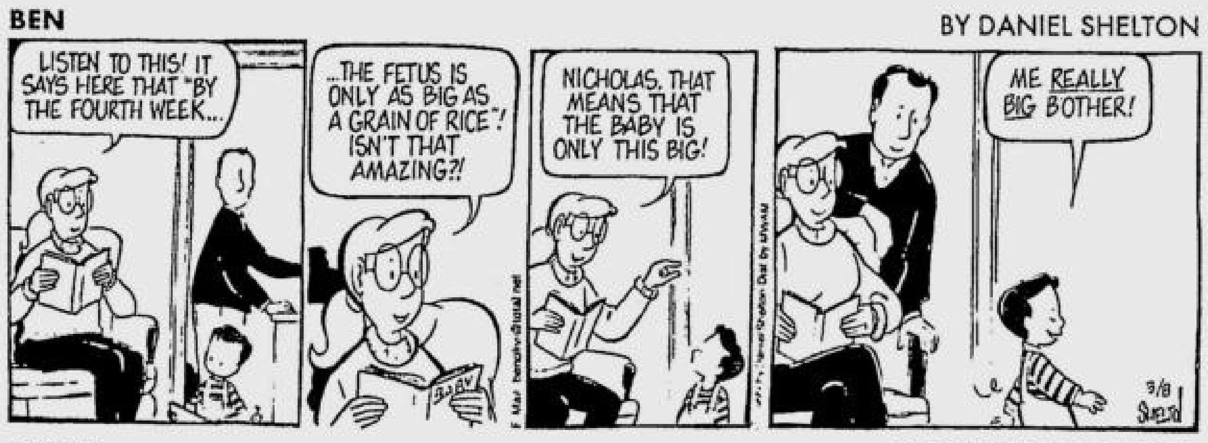
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SA CLUBHOUSE NG B1 GANG...
ANG TAGAL NAMAN NILA. KUYA, I-BEEP MO KAYA ULI SI KIKO.
NASA TELEPONO SI DADDY BH. SAKA PARATING NA SIGURO SILA.
GINO! JO!
AYAN NA NGA SILA!
ANONG RESULTA NG BLOOD TEST NINA GORIO?!?
BIGARAYBLAS B.G.G.
b1gang.com.ph

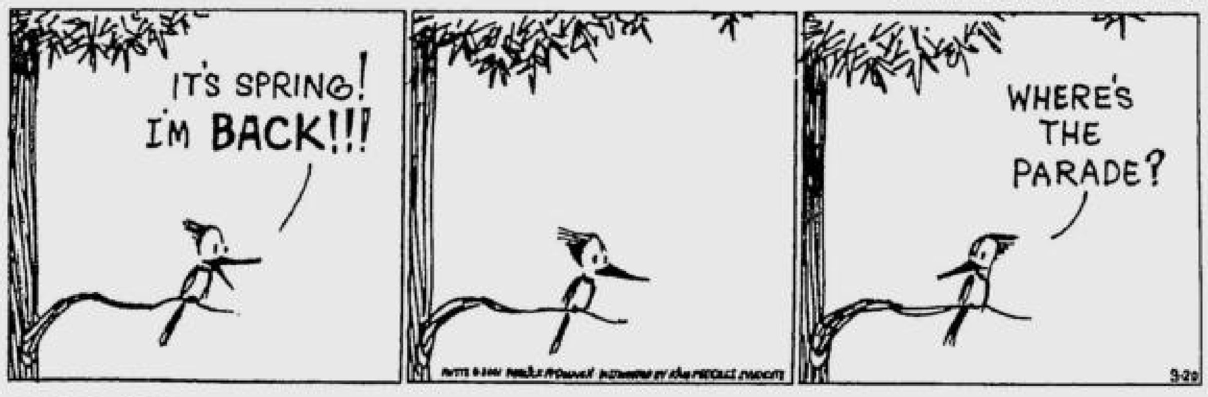
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LISTEN TO THIS! IT SAYS HERE THAT "BY THE FOURTH WEEK...
...THE FETUS IS ONLY AS BIG AS A GRAIN OF RICE"! ISN'T THAT AMAZING?!
NICHOLAS, THAT MEANS THAT THE BABY IS ONLY THIS BIG!
ME REALLY BIG BOTHER!
3/8
Shelton

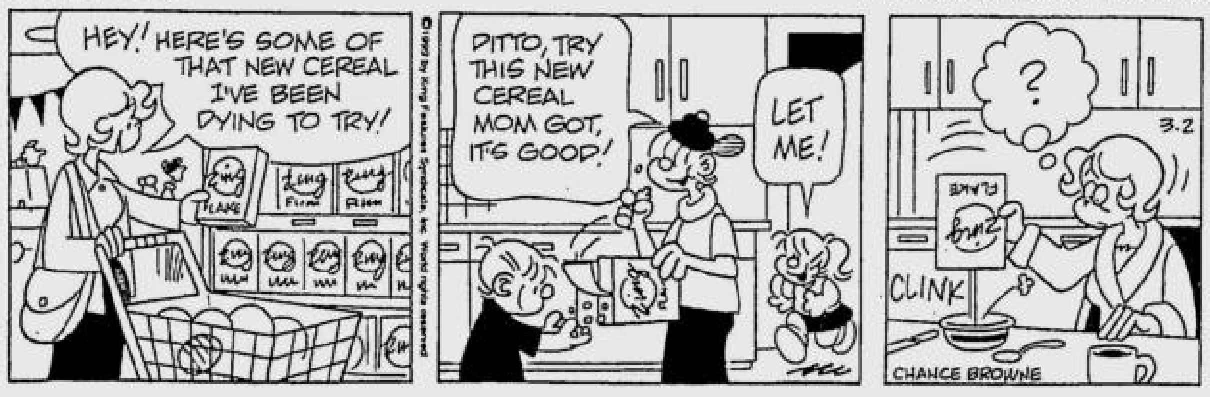
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S SPRING! I'M BACK!!!
WHERE'S THE PARADE?
3-20

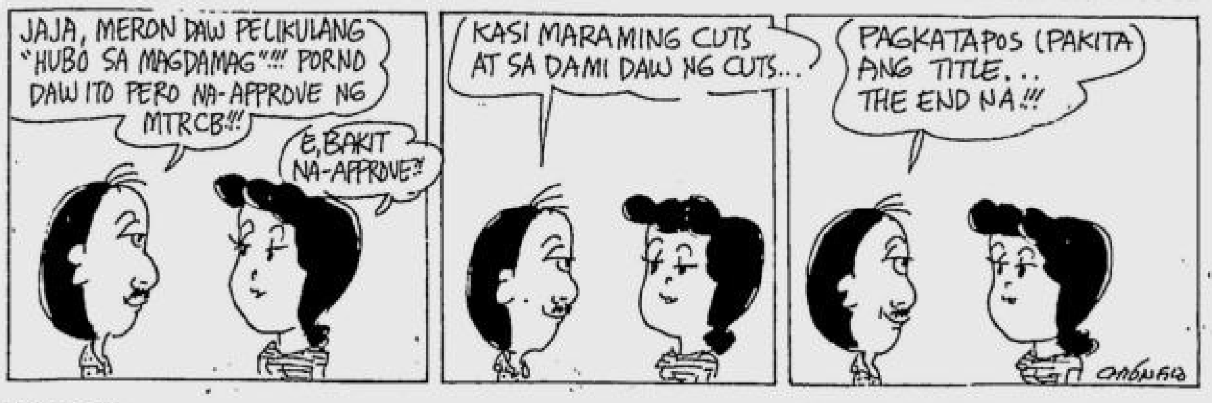
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HEY! HERE'S SOME OF THAT NEW CEREAL I'VE BEEN DYING TO TRY!
DITTO, TRY THIS NEW CEREAL MOM GOT, IT'S GOOD!
LET ME!
?
CLINK
3.2
CHANCE BROWNE

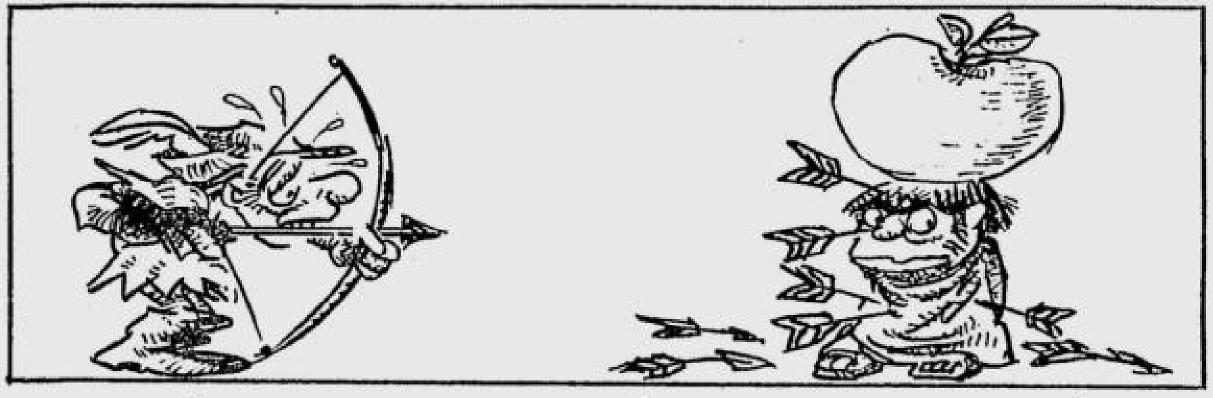
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

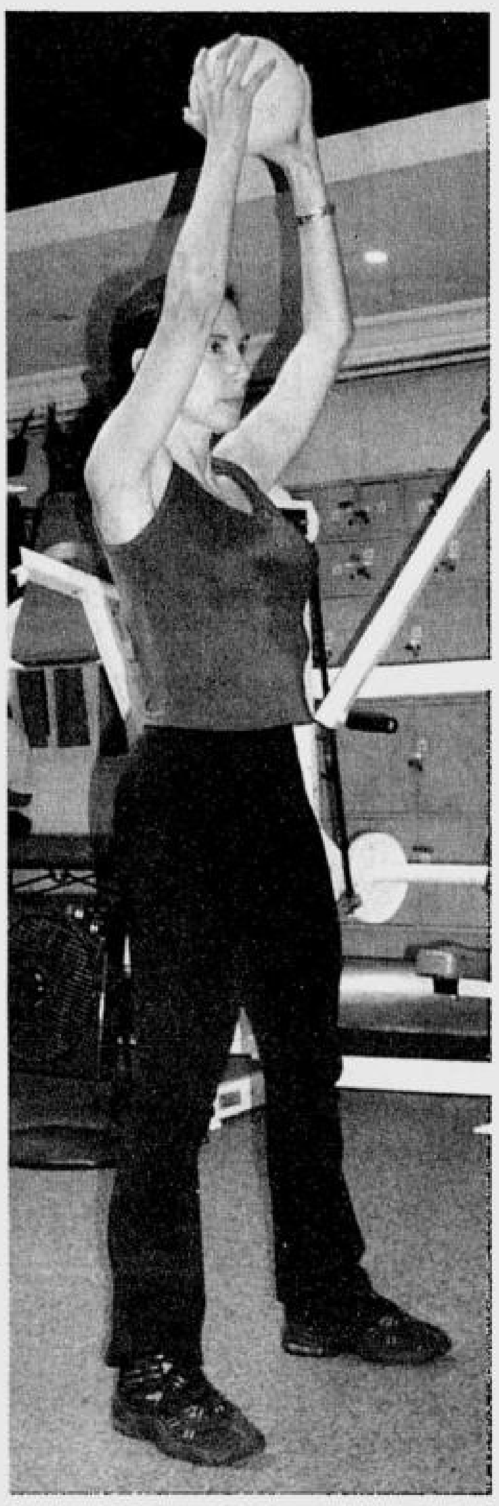

JAJA, MERON DAW PELIKULANG "HUBO SA MAGDAMAG"!!! PORNO DAW ITO PERO NA-APPROVE NG MTRCB!!!
E, BAKIT NA-APPROVE?!
KASI MARAMING CUTS AT SA DAMI DAW NG CUTS...
PAGKATAPOS (PAKITA ANG TITLE... THE END NA!!!
CHIONGLO

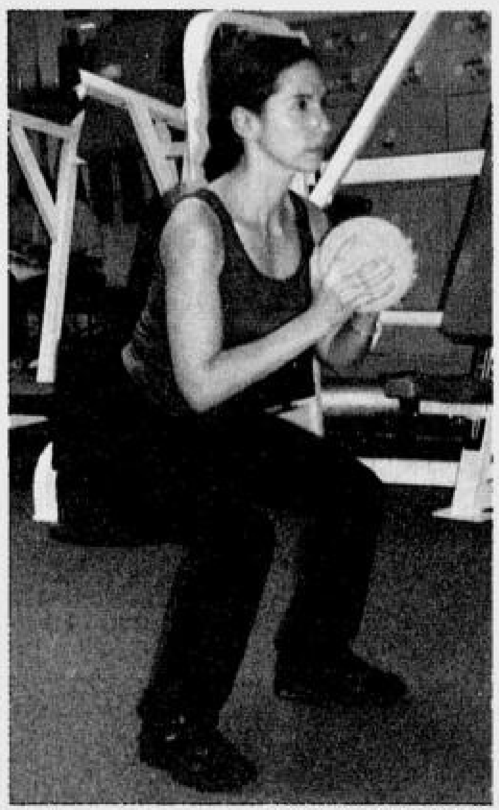
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



EXERCISE OF THE WEEK





PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Squat press

WORKS the muscles of the legs (front and back of thighs, buttocks) and shoulders.

Equipment:

Medicine ball (or any other ball that is available)

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with legs about hip width apart.
2. Hold the ball in front of your chest at a comfortable distance from your body.
3. Squat down then raise the ball over your head as you straighten up from the squat.

Performance tips;

1. Take care that you do not overarch your lower back as you come down in the squat and also when you straighten up with arms over your head.
2. It is natural to have the arms in front of the body rather than directly over the head when you bring the arms overhead.

Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions. Rest. Do one more set if you want to.

What happens when you pig out

(From page C1)

boomerang right back at you because you are so bored with eating just one kind of food that you head for the nearest eat-all-you-can resto!

The third reason we pig out at buffet-type restaurants is we eat more in the company of others who are also eating a lot. It's almost like we have social approval to make pigs of ourselves. We are not embarrassed because everyone else is doing the same thing. Vacations and the Christmas holiday season are other occasions when we don't feel ashamed about bingeing because others are doing the same. Fourth, we feel it is our duty as smart consumers to get our money's worth.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

How much food you can stuff down your gullet all depends on the size of your stomach, how hungry you are and how much stimulation (sight, smell, variety of food, etc.) your appetite receives. The stomach of a normal-weight person can hold about 3 cups before feeling uncomfortably full. The stomach of an overweight person can hold four cups or more. You see, if you are used to eating big meals, your stomach has been "trained" to expand and stretch more than a person who is used to eating smaller meals. Occasional overeating won't make your stomach expand, but constant overeating will. The reverse is also true. If you change your eating habits to eat smaller meals, your stomach will shrink back to normal size.

So, now what happens to all that food? The body will use what it needs immediately and store the rest. Carbohydrates are broken down into glucose. Your body will use what it needs for fuel and the excess will be sent to your muscles and liver to be stored as glycogen. However, if your glycogen levels are already at its peak from consumption of carbohydrate-rich foods in the previous days, the excess carbs will be stored as fat. Protein is broken down into amino acids and sent out to repair and maintain whatever body tissue needs it. The excess eventually ends up, you guessed it, stored as fat. The fat in the food you just ate will be broken down into fatty acids and the body will also use it as fuel for its immediate needs, while any excess will be stored away. Basically, any extra calories will end up in your fat cells in about eight hours.

The body is always burning calories (it's called your resting or basal metabolic rate) so it will use up some of the calories from your binge while you are sleeping, but unless you are doing a marathon in your sleep, most of it will be stored. However, those excess calories do not have to remain in your fat cells forever because if you are physically active for the next couple of days and you also eat lower calorie meals, you should be able to get rid of them. If you lead a slug's life and you eat high-calorie meals most of the time, it will take you a much longer time to shake off those excess calories. In fact, you might still have them when you go off to your next eat-all-you-can outing with your friends or family. This is why people gain weight when they go on vacation. Too many binges in a short amount of time.

As an interesting side note, have you ever noticed you are much hungrier the morning after a big binge compared to the morning after a small dinner? This is an interesting phenomenon that happens to a lot of people (myself included) for which there is still no explanation. One theory is that the stomach walls remain stretched and this causes certain hormones to send signals to the brain that you are still hungry.

If you are trying to lose weight, I suggest staying away from eat-all-you-can places. It is just too much temptation—a lot more than your willpower can take. When you are in the weight maintenance phase, you can risk a once-in-a-while binge.

If you are invited to an eat-all-you-can restaurant but you don't really want to go, here's what you can do to minimize the damage. Do not go to the restaurant on an empty stomach. Eat something like soup or fruit before going so you can control your appetite. Drink water instead of juice or soft drinks. Choose the lower calorie items on the buffet table. This means staying away from anything fried, creamy or oily. Eat fruits instead of the high calorie desserts. Eat slowly so that by the time your more "greedy" companions are on their second serving, you are still on your first.

An occasional binge won't do you much harm if you eat low-calorie meals for the next couple of days and exercise regularly. However, the danger is that you can get cocky and pig out a little more often than you realize because you think you can get rid of the excess calories before they have a chance to really do you in. Another danger is that bingeing could become your way of relieving stress and tension. Before you know it, you could become a compulsive overeater. And if you have been compensating for overeating by throwing up like some people do, you could become dependent on this coping mechanism and be on your way to becoming a full-blown bulimic. So be smart and keep those pig-out episodes to a minimum.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a Fitness Seminar on April 28 at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman. Personal training: Abdominal Exercise Variations, Training for a Marathon, Post Knee Surgery Exercises. Aerobics: Latin Step, Kickboxing and Exercises for Hips, Buttocks and Thighs, High-Low Jazz. Fitness management: Taxation, Making Projections, Performance Evaluations and Ethical Business Practices. Fitness enthusiasts: How Weightlifting Can Make You Stronger and Slimmer, Beginner's Weightlifting Program. Call Lorna at 842-0567.

* * *

The Sports Medicine Association of the Phils. will hold its 10th annual convention on April 28 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The theme is "Promoting Healthy Lifestyle for the Older Adult." Call 521-9123, 303-1142 or e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com

For past articles or exercises, go to my website at www.tinajuanfitness.com

Jesus' sayings according to the secret Gospel of Thomas

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I RECEIVED two e-mails from foreign readers about the same topic, the hidden Gospel of Thomas, which was the subject of a recent Hollywood movie, "Stigmata."

Reader Claudia Foy says, "Your article (PDI Lifestyle, 06/11/00) was the most clear and concise work I have read about the gnostic Gospel of St. Thomas. 'Stigmata' is the only American movie that has had a profound impact on me. Your article corrected the fallacies mentioned in the movie.

"I wonder if you have materials that would expand my knowledge about the Gospel of St. Thomas. Since I'm deaf, my access to information is limited to printed materials and videos with subtitles. I'm studying Far East religions and I'm reviewing which books of yours to buy."

Reader Steve Gleadell says, "I read your column about the truth behind the hidden scroll of St. Thomas. I, too, am interested in this topic and I wonder if you know where I can find a translation of it on the Internet."

I'm not aware of any source of information about the Gospel of Thomas on the Internet, but try looking for Nag Hammadi Scrolls or Gnostic Gospels.

The reference I used for the article I wrote is from the book, "The Nag Hammadi Library" (revised edition) edited by James M. Robinson. It is "the definitive new translation of the Gnostic Scriptures, complete in one volume." The book is published by Harper Collins in hardcover in 1978 and the paperback edition in 1990.

The Gospel of Thomas is only 13 pages long in its translated form. It contains a collection of the traditional sayings of Jesus. Its authorship is attributed to Didymos Judas Thomas, that is, Judas "the twin." In the Syrian church Thomas was known as the brother of Jesus who founded the Churches of the East, particularly of Edessa. It was most likely written in Syria.

According to the book, "In its literary genre, 'The Gospel of Thomas' is more akin to one of the sources of the canonical gospels, namely the so-called synoptic sayings Source (often called 'Q' from the German word *quelle*, meaning 'source'), which was used by both Matthew and Luke. Yet this gospel contains quite different older sayings of Jesus. It is believed to have been written about the middle of the 1st century."

In this Gospel, Jesus speaks more like a benevolent and wise Eastern guru or spiritual teacher rather than the strict moralistic preacher that the Christian church has made Jesus to be. Let's take a look at some of these sayings of Jesus from this hidden Gospel of Thomas.

- Jesus said, "... The Kingdom is made of you, and it is outside of you. When you come to know yourselves, then you will become known, and you will realize that it is you who are the sons of the living father. But if you will not know yourselves, you will dwell in poverty and it is you who are that poverty."
- Jesus said, "Recognize what is in your sight, and that which is hidden from you will become plain to you. For there is nothing hidden which will not become manifest."
- Jesus said, "He who will drink from my mouth will become like me. I myself shall become he, and the things that are hidden will be revealed to him."
- Jesus said, "Love your brother like your soul, guard him like the pupil of your eye."
- Jesus saw infants being suckled. He said to his disciples, "These infants being suckled are like those who enter the kingdom."

They said to him, "Shall we, then, as children, enter the kingdom?"

Jesus said to them, "When you make the two one, and when you make the inside like the outside and the outside like the inside, and the above like the below, and when you make the male and the female one and the same, so that the male not be male, nor the female be female, and when you fashion eyes in place of an eye, and a hand in place of a hand, and a foot in place of a foot, and a likeness in place of a likeness, then you will enter the kingdom."

According to the book, "Whereas the 'Q' emphasized the eschatological expectation of the future coming of the Kingdom of God, the Gospel of Thomas in its oldest form stressed the finding of wisdom, or of the 'Kingdom of the Father,' in the knowledge of oneself guided by the sayings of Jesus."

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my new website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday at 6-8 p.m.

Invitational show . . .

(From page C4)

groceries, supermarkets and department stores nationwide, the product comes in 45- and 14-gram sticks in three feminine scent—Spring Breeze, Shower Fresh and Powder Fresh.

BABY-FRIENDLY NAPPIES. Also from P&G is new skin-friendly Pampers Baby Dry with more Dermacream to provide babies with more protection against wetness and diaper rash. Especially made for baby's sensitive skin, Pampers now has Dermacream not only on the tap sheet but on the inner leak guards as well. Dermacream prevents harmful irritations, keeping babies' skin softer and smoother. The product also has a triple lock-away core that is designed to absorb up to six wettings to keep baby dry throughout the night. It also has a breathable waistband that helps let perspiration evaporate and thus cools baby's skin, and a clothlike, refastenable tape to avoid scratching and red marks on the baby's skin. Available in groceries, department stores and supermarkets nationwide, new skin-friendly Pampers Baby Dry with more Dermacream comes in packs of fours, fives, eighteens, twenties, twenty-twos and twenty-fours.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to get the answers and allow you to make the best use of your medical card.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What is the difference between MEDICard and Medicare?

MEDICard is a Health Maintenance Organization, or HMO. An HMO provides managed health care services to its enrolled members. Medicare (which is now Philhealth) is the government's subsidy for health care services for people who have made contributions, usually thru salary deduction (remitted with SSS / GSIS deductions). The program provides for a certain fixed amount of benefit that can be availed of by paying contributors. This Philhealth benefit is integrated with the HMO's program coverage.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Josefino Qua was appointed as MEDICard Coordinator in Chinese General Hospital ever since its accreditation as one of MEDICard's providers in 1997. He is a graduate of the Far Eastern University College of Medicine and he took his residency and post-graduate training in Surgery at the Chinese Gen. Hospital. He later earned his fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in the United States. Doc Joe believes that his main role as coordinator is to manage and lead MEDICard's service team in giving quality service to all MEDICard clients. His clinic hours are Mondays to Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 12:30 NN at Rm. N6 of Chinese Gen. Hospital

Dr. Rosalio P. Torres, a Hematologist, has been with Medicard's list of accredited providers since 1996. He is a graduate of the University of the Philippines. He is married to Sandra Tonkeh Torres, who's also a doctor and they have 6 children. Being a health buff, Doc Torres loves to go jogging and ballroom dancing. According to him, dancing is the best form of exercise. His clinic is in Rm. 372, 3F, NW of the Makati Medical Center.

If you are in need of a good Pulmonologist, you can visit **Dr. Franklin Yu** at St. Luke's Medical Center. Dr. Yu is very popular among MEDICard clients ever since he joined MEDICard's team of accredited providers. After earning his degree as Doctor of Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, he then specialized in IM – Pulmonology. He is married to Ms. Elsa Yu. For consultations, you can visit him at Cathedral Heights Bldg. beside St. Luke's Medical Center, Rm. 206, Mon – Sat 1:00PM – 5:00PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St. Salcedo Village, Makati or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399. Look for Ms. Joy Mendiola / Ms. Milen Ruiz. *log on to www.medicardphils.com*

ISO 9002

Dawn of natural, healing soaps

BY BIBSY M. CARBALLO

IT must have to do with her moving out of congested Manila—out of the pollution, and into the wide open spaces. Since relocating to Davao after her marriage three years ago, the beautiful and talented Dawn Zulueta has turned to activities that celebrate her liberation and communion with nature. Always out riding in the plantation, busy with civic concerns or attending to her fledgling natural soap business, she has been hard to reach.

How much of the natural lifestyle has gone into her system? For one thing, the healthy and natural approach to living has encouraged Dawn to go into the production of natural soaps. After devouring literature on essential oils and their benefits, she decided to create her own line of soaps August of last year.

Although Dawn also engages in the manufacture of massage, burner and bath oils, with scents ranging from the usual floral jasmine, rose and lavender to the more exotic sandalwood, chamomile, patchouli, it is in the soaps that she has put much heart. She has come up with seven, namely, Refreshing Lavender (for dry skin), Relaxing Sandalwood (for dry skin), Refreshing Lemon (for oily skin), Relaxing Jasmine (for oily skin), Carrot Seed (for mature skin, which may start as early as adolescence due to sun exposure and an unhealthy lifestyle), Tangerine (anti-stretch marks) and Juniper (anti-cellulite).

The Refreshing blends are day soaps since the essential oils used have invigorating effects on the skin and mind. The Relaxing blends are night soaps that soothe tired muscles and promote a good night's sleep. One may combine two or three soaps, according to Dawn, depending on what one feels the body needs at the moment.

All these formulations, says Down, are based on aromatherapy essential oils bought abroad. In its purest form, only a few drops is enough to create a batch of 56 soaps. These blends have more olive oil (which is extra moisturizing for the skin than other vegetable oils), less coconut and palm oil. This extra moisturizing has added benefits of one of the following: papaya extract, avocado oil, wheat germ, jojoba oil (from the kernels of an evergreen desert plant), sesame oil, cocoa butter, etc., including two to three essential oil combinations.

LIFESTYLE change for erstwhile TV-movie star Dawn Zulueta has inspired a natural soaps business.

Like every starter venture, Dawn's soaps are being marketed from her home. A steady clientele calls and picks up orders from her home. She has also joined bazaars, two of which she organized. Dawn's clients, primarily women from all walks of life, have claimed a difference in their skin after using her soaps. "When using chemically treated commercial brands, the skin becomes too dry and we usually need a lot of body lotion to retain its moisture. All-natural soap doesn't take away our skins natural moisture or elasticity," she explains.

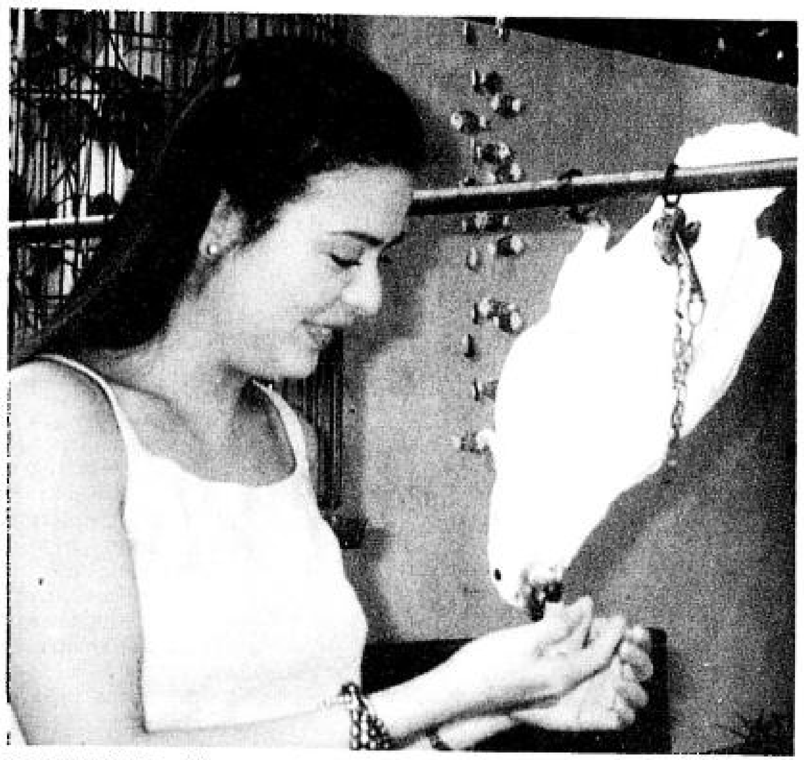
Most of the soaps are so mild they can even be used on babies, she continues. And mainly because no perfumes are used on the soaps, even men don't have to worry about coming out of the shower smelling like flowers. "The scents of essential oils in soaps do not stick to our skin and give off a fragrance when we sweat, unlike most perfumed commercial soaps do."

Seeing that natural soaps are a rare commodity in Davao, Dawn has quickly filled in the void, which was much welcome since flying to Manila would have been too expensive, plus the fact that Manila products are sold at high markup.

"The important thing to remember about these soaps is that they are not only used to cleanse our skin, but also to heal. When healing herbs are added to soap, we increase its power to cleanse, soothe and protect in an all-natural, healthy way," explains Dawn.

Dawn's label is Splendor in the Bath, which carries a whole range of soaps. However, her own particular recipes (the seven soaps) carry the label of "Especially Blended for Dawn."

REFRESHING BLENDS. Bath oils and soaps are based on aromatherapy essential oils.



COMMUNING with pet cockatoo Lupe

Invitational show to present cutting-edge line of hair-care products

WEEKLY DOSAGE

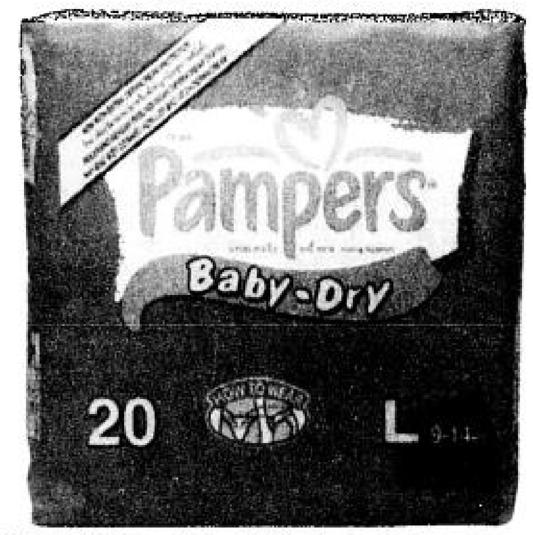
SCHWARZKOPF Professional, one of the world's leading hair-care product manufacturers, will introduce its latest cutting-edge product line in the Philippines via a by-invitation-only hair show at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on April 23.

To be launched is Osis (Only Sold in Salons), a top-quality line inspired by stylists that fuses the creativity of the world's top hair experts and Schwarzkopf's experienced research and development team.

The affair will be highlighted by the hair creations of Australian hair experts Todd Arndt and Voulla Fronis, who will demonstrate the many uses of Osis. It will also showcase the hair creations of the talented winners of the Philippine Hairdresser Awards 2000. They are Philippine Hairdresser of the Year 2000 and Avant-Garde winner Nikki Bacay of Piandre Salon (Ortigas), Commercial Style winner Victor Ortega of Emphasis Salon (Makati City), Men's Style winner Nelson Cruz Salon (Dagupan City) and Young Artist winner Renante Cobcobo of Ocean Salon (Baguio City).

AUSTRALIAN hair experts Todd Arndt and Voulla Fronis

Osis products are available in eight lines—Volume & Texture, Style & Care and Create & Fix. They are exclusively available from Schwarzkopf Professional partner salons. Schwarzkopf products are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Top Style Marketing Inc.



DIAPERS keep baby dry throughout the night because of the triple lock-away core that can absorb up to six wettings.

Secret
Secret
Secret

SKIN CARE. Procter & Gamble Phils., the country's leading manufacturer of consumer products, recently introduced new Secret Platinum, an antiperspirant and deodorant for women which provides superior dryness plus skin care in one. Secret Platinum comes in a new pH balanced lotion form that works well with a woman's unique body chemistry, leaving her skin looking soft and light. Now available in

INVITATIONAL/
p.C3

Supercharge
YOUR Skin

Facial Care Centre Introduces

Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment

Experience energy from nature with a powersupply of **VEGETABLE** essenses and **VITAMINS** in one treatment. Natural elements combine to boost your skin's youthful vitality. Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment utilizes the therapeutic powers of **Dill**, known in Chinese and Western Medicine as a healing herb coupled with a new stabilized **Vitamin C** that promotes better penetration through the skin to:

- neutralize the effects of free radicals
- keep the cell structures intact so skin is firm, supple and resilient
- lighten the skin by transforming the colored melanin to a colorless pigment
- prevent age spots by inhibiting the production of new melanin
- increase collagen synthesis to diminish wrinkle formation and increase the skin's elasticity

Dual-Benefit VEtamin Treatment.
Anti-oxidizing, stimulating and anti-wrinkle.
Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

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812-6080/81	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583 / 850-4577	242-2185	233-7633/35
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	631-3007 · 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	410-3709 · 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Federal Tower Bldg. Dasmariñas St.	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)